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Stylish summer displays

10 BEST PLANTS

FOR EARLY SUMMER

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Key trends

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Discovering a new nursery is one of life's pleasures. This issue of *Gardens Illustrated* includes a guide to 100 of the best independent nurseries in the UK today. From bulbs to alpine plants to trees, I hope it will inspire you to visit somewhere new this year.

Many of the nurseries included grow their plants on site or source them locally. Where noted, they favour peat-free compost and use recyclable pots. All of the nurseries are specialists in their own field – many award-winning – with a proven a track record of selling familiar as well as more unusual plants. An average of 61 new nurseries are listed in the RHS Plant Finder each year, although the number of plants included remains the same. This is a list of the very best.

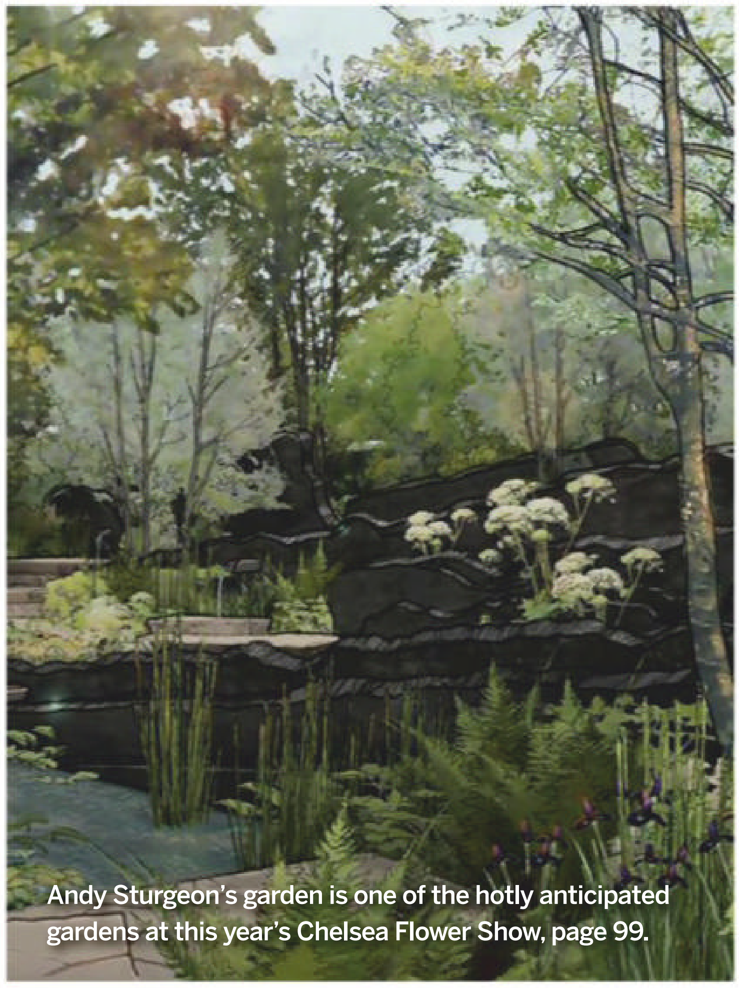
Also in this issue is the first look at the show garden designs and key trends ahead of this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Our 12-page preview includes designs by Andy Sturgeon, who is reimagining a woodland palette amid carved fins of burnt timber, and Helen Elks-Smith who has designed a *hortus conclusus* within the shelter of a native hedgerow. Sarah Eberle's design for the Forestry Commission and Gravetye Manor takes its cue from the visionary gardener William Robinson, combining native and exotic plants in a naturalistic way. This year's show looks to be as exciting as ever.

Possibly the best-kept secret among garden designers is Orchard Dene Nurseries in Oxfordshire, where the expert plantspeople Chris and Toby Marchant have grown the plants for innumerable Chelsea Flower Show gardens and work regularly with designers such as Sarah Price, Piet Oudolf and Cleve West for their private clients. Chris has designed three planting plans for this issue – for a front garden, an eating space and for under the shade of a tree – based on tried-and-trusted plants with long-season interest. Each of the plans combines the most choice annuals, perennials and bulbs.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



Andy Sturgeon's garden is one of the hotly anticipated gardens at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, page 99.

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Chelsea Flower Show

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CLIVE NICHOLS

Soft, loose planting combines with Japanese-inspired topiary in this romantic Dorset garden, page 40.

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Stylish ideas for container planting by Andrew Montgomery

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EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Join us for a special midsummer supper in the company of designer Jinny Blom, and enjoy a sneak peek at the nurseries of growers Hortus Loci – page 9
- Save 20% on scented and species pelargoniums from Woottens of Wenhaston[†] – page 135

[†] Reader offer open to UK residents only.

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ANNIE GATTI
Annie talks to the designers behind the 2019 Chelsea Flower Show, page 99. *"The resilience of plants has been the inspiration for many of the designers of show gardens at this year's show."*

CLIVE NICHOLS
Among the gardens Clive shot this month is a seaside garden, page 48. *"Anthony Paul is skilled at creating natural-looking gardens and here his choice of drifts of pink thrift is a masterstroke."*

CHRIS MARCHANT
Chris has created three new planting designs adaptable for gardens large or small, page 93. *"I work to design plant harmonies that endure for more than a couple of weeks."*

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JAMES BASSON
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

FERGUS GARRETT
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student and volunteer programmes at Dixter and through worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008.

ANNA PAVORD
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

DAN PEARSON
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

SARAH PRICE
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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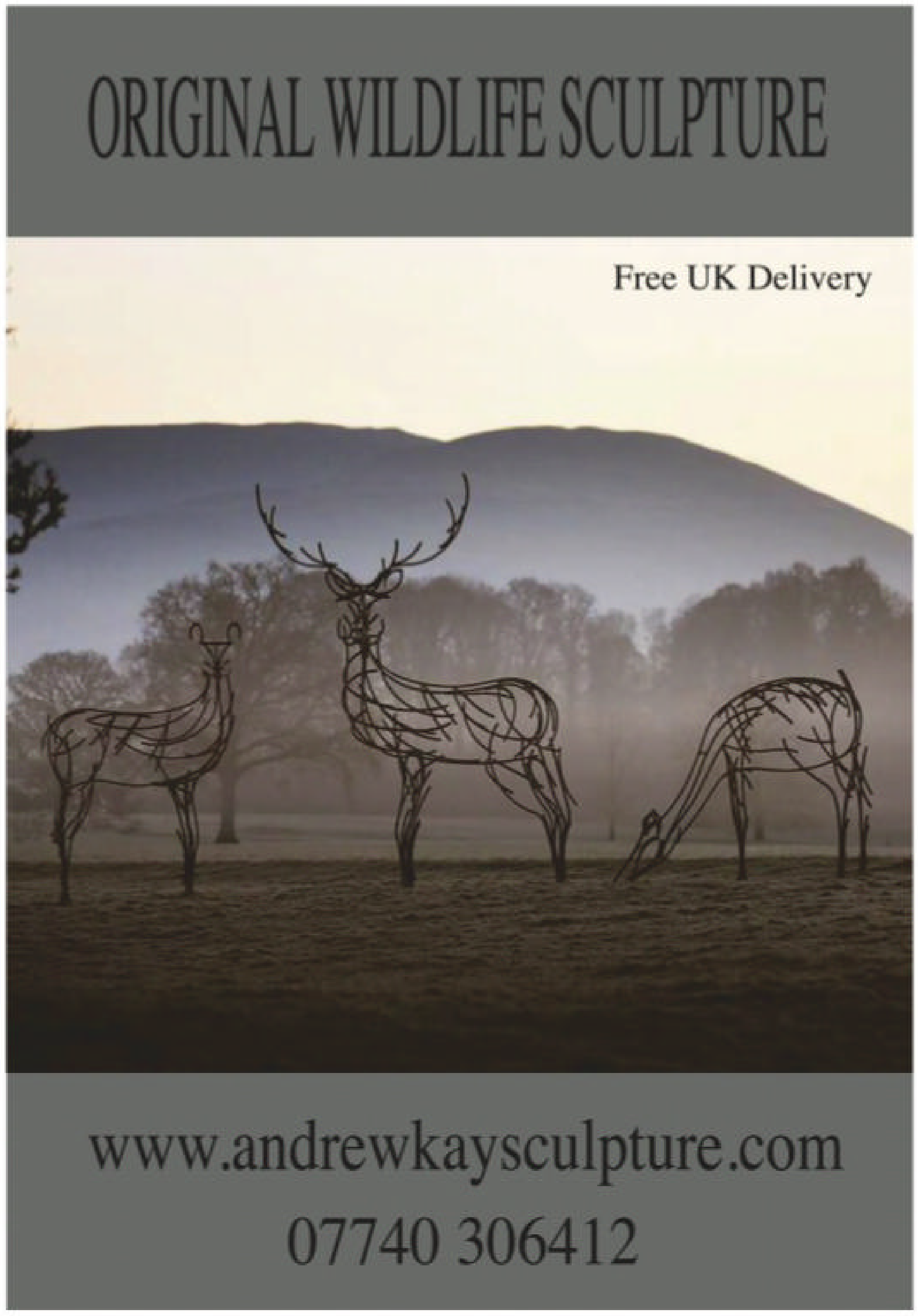

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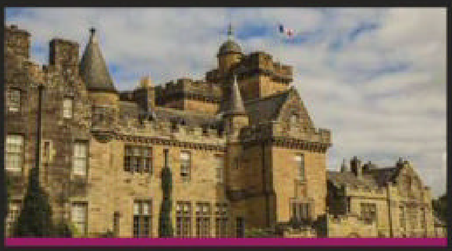

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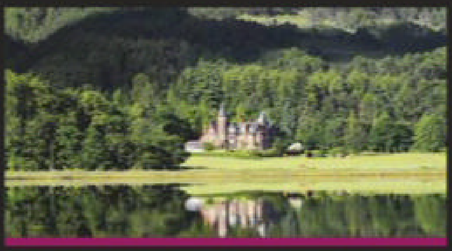

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THE SPEAKERS

Jinny Blom is an eclectic designer whose gardens include a Chelsea gold-winning show garden for Prince Harry, a rugged, naturalistic estate in Scotland, a wildlife-focussed retreat in Kenya and romantic Cotswold manor house gardens. Her recent book *The Thoughtful Gardener* called for a more intelligent approach to garden design.

Mark Straver and Robin Wallis set up Hortus Loci in 2011. The nursery has become known for its expertise in sourcing a wide range of plants from around the world and working with designers to supply plants for their show gardens in particular at RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Jinny Blom's design for the garden at Temple Guiting Manor offers an ebulliently romantic space that sits perfectly within its Cotswold location.

SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2019

MIDSUMMER GARDEN SUPPER CLUB WITH JINNY BLOM

We celebrate the long summer evenings with a special seasonal dinner and talk from award-winning designer Jinny Blom at The Plant Centre, Hortus Loci

Hosted by *Gardens Illustrated* and the expert plantspeople at **The Plant Centre, Hortus Loci** in Hampshire, our midsummer celebration starts in the late afternoon. There will be time for refreshments when you arrive before taking a tour of the nursery, to take a peek at some of the plants being grown ready for their starring roles at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Show. There will also be the opportunity to browse the nursery and make your own plant selections before enjoying a pre-dinner drink. Dinner will be prepared for us by the Hobo.co artisan kitchen, to reflect the season and all that midsummer has to offer, with fresh flavours inspired by local produce and a nod to traditional Scandinavian celebrations. The evening's finale will be a talk from award-winning designer **Jinny Blom**, who will tell us about her very varied recent commissions. She'll discuss her approach to planting design, art and architecture and some of the projects both here in the UK and abroad that she is currently working on.

ANDREW MONTGOMERY, © NATHAL E JOUAN

EVENT DETAILS

Price £100 per person

Date Saturday 22 June, 2019.
Venue The Plant Centre, Hortus Loci,
Hound Green, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8LQ.
Programme
4.30pm Refreshments and welcome introduction
5pm Tour of the nursery
5.45pm Return to the plant centre for drinks and opportunity to buy plants
6.30pm Dinner served
8.15pm Talk from award-winning designer Jinny Blom
9pm Concludes

Tickets and directions will be sent out prior to the event. Booking is essential. Please advise us of any dietary or accessibility requirements.

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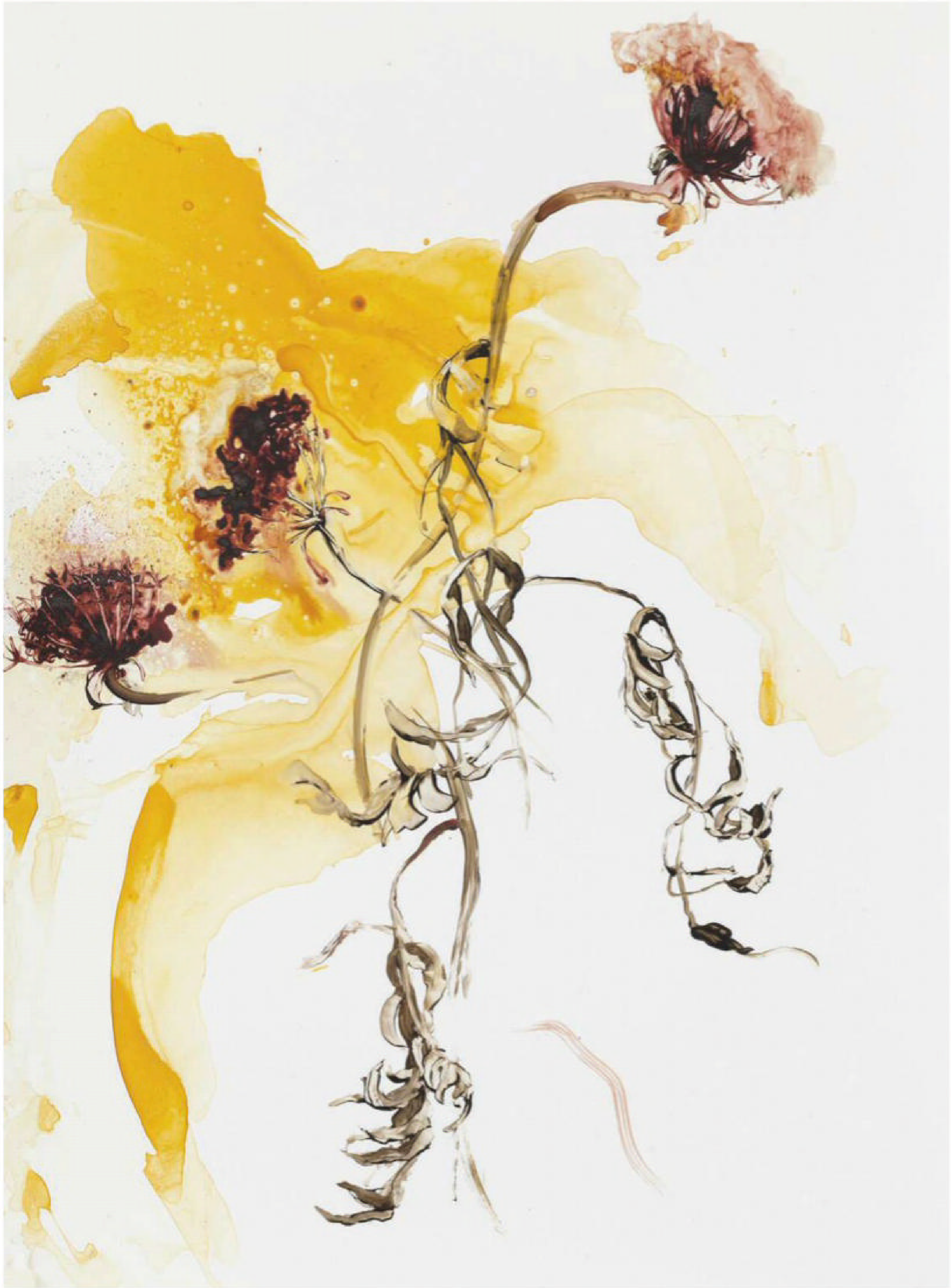


ILANA MANOLSON, *YARROW*, 2017, ACRYLIC ON YUPO PAPER ON BOARD, 65.4CMX48.9CM © THE ARTIST. COURTESY OF CADOGAN CONTEMPORARY

ORGANIC MATTERS

Canadian-American painter Ilana Manolson brings her abstract, figurative work to London for the first time in an exhibition at Cadogan Contemporary. A trained botanist, Manolson's work translates her experience into images with a deep understanding of the structure of its floral subjects, while the abstract elements flow across the waterproof yupo paper. The overall result is a compelling combination of organic forms and processes. 23 April – 10 May. **cadogancontemporary.com**

News

COMPILED BY HANNAH TRIBE

PLANT FAIR

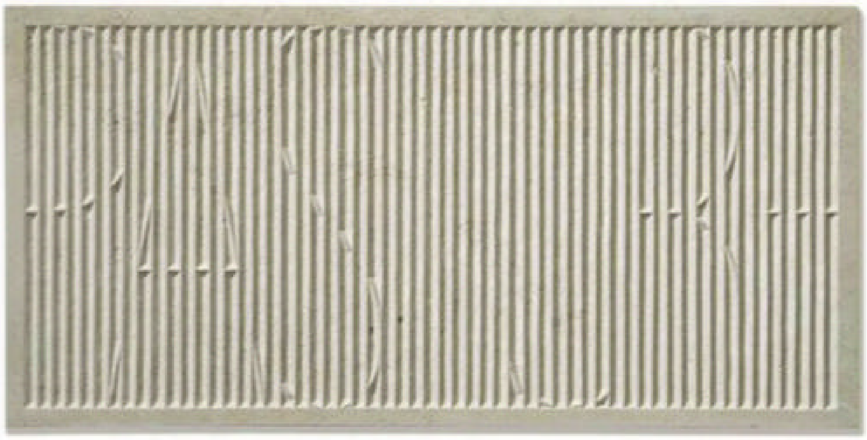
This month, more than 200 exhibitors will gather to celebrate the Journées des Plantes spring plant fair at Chantilly, a 25-minute drive from Paris. This year's event is dedicated to the *sans-souci*, carefree plants that require little maintenance on the part of the gardener once they have settled into an appropriate spot. Selections include the slow-growing *Ginkgo biloba* 'Troll', the long-flowering *Rosa rugosa* 'Louise Bugnet' and the orange-scented lemon balm *Melissa officinalis* subsp. *altissima*. Plantsman Roy Lancaster, one of the judges at the show, will be discussing his three decades of horticultural experience in a talk on 18 May. It's Roy's last year as a member of the prestigious Jury International des Mérites, before Jim Gardiner, former chief curator at the RHS, takes over the role. 17-19 May. See the website for opening times and ticket prices. **domainedechantilly.com**

Classic romance

Joining the ranks of David Austin's literary-inspired roses are two characters plucked from the novels of Thomas Hardy. Gabriel Oak (= 'Auscrowd'), pictured above, has all the presence of its namesake in *Far From the Madding Crowd*, with dark-green foliage, purple stems and large, deep-pink, rosette blooms. The other, Eustacia Vye (= 'Ausegdon'), is as beautiful and complex as the heroine from *The Return of the Native*, with apricot-pink blooms and a fruity scent, and is a vigorous rose, ideal for growing in shade. Both are available at £21.50 for a bare-root rose or £28 for a potted rose. **davidaustinroses.co.uk**

WRITTEN IN STONE

Robert Macfarlane's sumptuous The Lost Words: A Spell Book *caused a national conversation about the loss of nature words from the* Oxford Junior Dictionary. *Now a new exhibition,* The Lost Words – Forget Me Not, *memorialises these words in stone and wood, n an attempt to redress the balance. The Lettering Arts Centre, Snape Maltings, Suffolk IP17 1SP. 15-26 May.* ***letteringartstrust.org.uk***



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Garden Museum Literary Festival

Be sure to book your tickets for the Garden Museum's popular literary festival, which this year takes place in the art-filled surroundings of Houghton Hall and Gardens in Norfolk. Speakers will explore the mysteries of botanical Latin, the art of floral design and what gardens can tell us about ourselves and others. Among the speakers are designers Mary Keen, George Carter and Arne Maynard, florist Shane Connolly, art historian and landscape designer Sir Roy Strong, and nature writer Richard Mabey. 21-22 June. See the website for full details and ticket prices. **gardenmuseum.org.uk**

ELLEN ROONEY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

John Grimshaw.

Nigel Dunnett.

Troy Scott Smith.

Sarah Wain.

CLASS ACT

With 35 events to choose from, and several new venues added, both in the UK and mainland Europe, this year's Garden Masterclass programme has workshops to suit all levels and interests. Highlights include: selecting trees for the garden with arboriculturist John Grimshaw at Michael Heseltine's garden Thenford; creating sustainable gardens with designer and ecologist Nigel Dunnett at Chatsworth; creative containers at Iford Manor Gardens with head gardener Troy Scott Smith; and growing under glass with Sarah Wain. See website for details and prices. **gardenmasterclass.org**

NIGEL DUNNETT BY MARIANNE MAJERUS

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DUTCH DELIGHT

Weltevree is a Dutch word meaning 'pleasant and contented with your surroundings'. This couldn't be more appropriate for a company supplying durable products for outdoor living. Its latest offering, the Poplar clog, is inspired by the iconic, Dutch, wooden shoe, updated for easier walking with contemporary proportions. Designed by Lex Pott and made entirely from Dutch poplar wood, these clogs make for convenient and robust gardening footwear. Prices start at €69. **weltevree.eu**

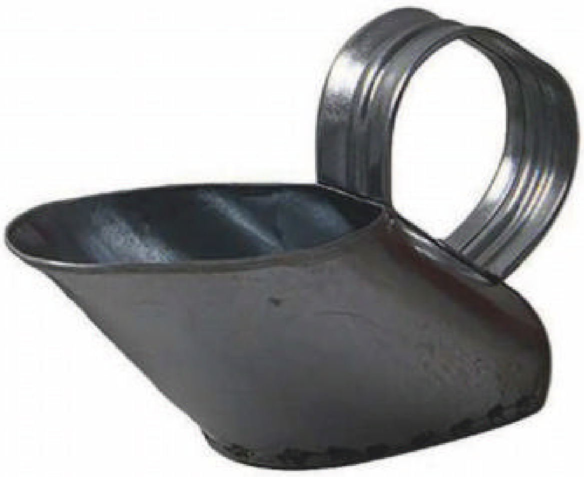
Floral flotilla

If the crowds at RHS Chelsea Flower Show get too much, take a stroll or a free rickshaw ride around the surrounding streets for this year's Chelsea in Bloom displays. More than 60 magnificent floral displays celebrate this years' theme, *Under the Sea.* Shops, restaurants and hotels will all get involved and for the first year the event will spread to King's Road. 20-25 May. **chelseainbloom.co.uk**

FRESH MINT

Purple-edged foliage hints at the blackcurrant flavour and scent of this new introduction from Hooksgreen Herbs. Well-suited to containers, this hardy *Mentha* 'Blackcurrant' is perfect for a terrace. Pick a few leaves to add to your tea or evening pick-me-up. Launching at RHS Malvern Spring Festival on 9 May, it is priced at £3.99 for a 9cm pot. **hooksgreenherbs.com**

3 FOR THE GARDEN… SCOOPS



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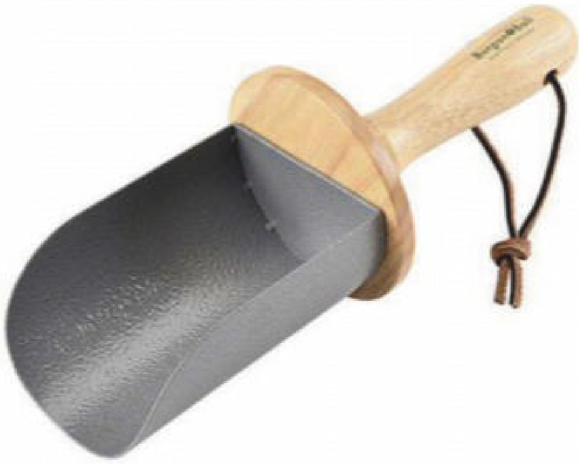

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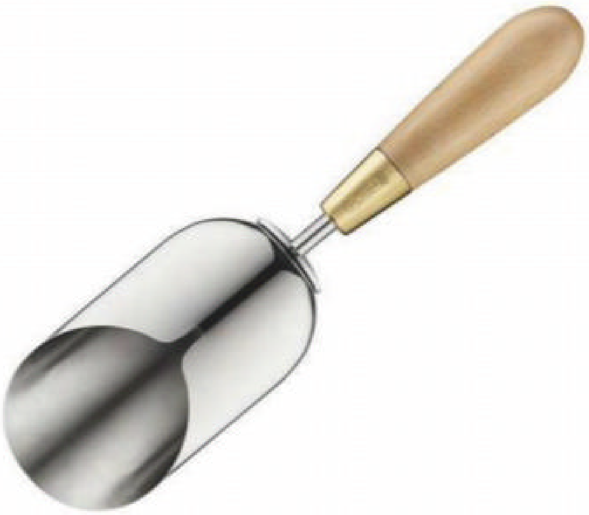

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COMPILED BY HANNAH TRIBE AND ANNIE GATTI

① **Scottish Rhododendron Festival**
Explore the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's spectacular rhododendron collection in the company of expert garden guides. It's one of several events taking place all over Scotland as part of the Scottish Rhododendron Festival, organised by Discover Scottish Gardens. Until 31 May, see website for dates and times, £6. Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ. Tel 0131 248 2909, rbge.org.uk

② **Guided Estate & Bluebell Walk**
Enjoy carpets of late spring blooms in Arley Hall & Gardens' Big Wood. This part of the garden is not normally open to visitors, so don't miss the opportunity to wander by the lake and enjoy the displays. 5 May, 2-3.30pm, £8. Arley Hall & Gardens, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6NA. Tel 01565 777353, arleyhallandgardens.com

③ **Glendoick Gardens Tours**
Join the centenary celebrations at Glendoick Gardens in Perthshire by exploring the ten-acre woodland with owner and rhododendron expert Kenneth Cox (see feature page 74). 5 and 12 May,. 11am-12.30pm, £5. Glendoick, Glencarse, Perthshire PH2 7NS. Tel 01738 860265, glendoick.com

④ **Gardening in the Shade Workshop**
Learn how shade influences the growth of plants, and how to select the best plants to grow in different types of shade at this workshop with plant expert Derry Watkins. 8 May, 10am-1pm, £50. Special Plants, Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8LA. Tel 01225 891686, specialplants.net

⑤ **A Celebration of Art**
Browse more than 80 animal sculpture pieces, including Will Carr's kinetic wind sculpture (shown), at Borde Hill Garden's 20th anniversary annual sculpture exhibition. 10 May – 30 September, admission included in garden ticket. Borde Hill Garden, Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1XP Tel 01444 450326, bordehill.co.uk

⑥ **Composting Workshop**
Learn how to design and build a compost box and discover the different ways to make compost at this comprehensive one-day course, at the new Norfolk School of Gardening. 11 May, 10am-3pm, £55. Ketteringham Hall, Church Road, Ketteringham, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9RS. norfolkschoolofgardening.co.uk

⑦ **Art Unbound**
Discover contemporary artworks by artists including Rebecca Newnham and Clare Trenchard in the theatrical and flamboyant surroundings of the 18th-century Painswick Rococo Garden. 26 May – 8 September, 10.30am-5pm, £8.95. Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6TH. Tel 01452 813204, rococogarden.org.uk

⑧ **Introduction to Planting Design**
Learn how to create successful planting designs for your garden, on this one-day, practical workshop at Dorney Court in Berkshire. Led by Neill Ludmon for the Crocus Garden School, this entry level course will show you how to measure up and draw your plan to scale, and place plants in scheme. 29 May, 9.30am-4.15pm, £80. Dorney Court, Dorney Lane, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QP. Tel 01628 669999, crocus.co.uk

⑨ **Gardening Scotland 2019**
Don't miss Scotland's premier gardening show, which this year offers more than 400 exhibitors and show gardens designed and created by horticultural students. 31 May – 2 June, see website for ticket prices. Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NB. Tel 0131 333 0965, gardeningscotland.com

⑩ **Garden Tour at Cantley Hall**
Book now for a garden tour of Lord Kirkham's gardens at Cantley Hall, Doncaster, in aid of the gardening charity Perennial. 5 June, £100, including lunch. Cantley Hall, School Lane, Old Cantley, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN3 3QG. Tel 0800 093 8510, perennial.org.uk

⑪ **Garden Design for Health and Wellbeing**
Book ahead for a new two-day course on designing gardens for health and wellbeing settings, with designer Olivia Kirk. Run by the London College of Garden Design, the course is held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 7 and 28 June, £275. The London College of Garden Design, 74 Sydney Road, London SW20 8EF. Tel 01483 762955, lcgd.org.uk

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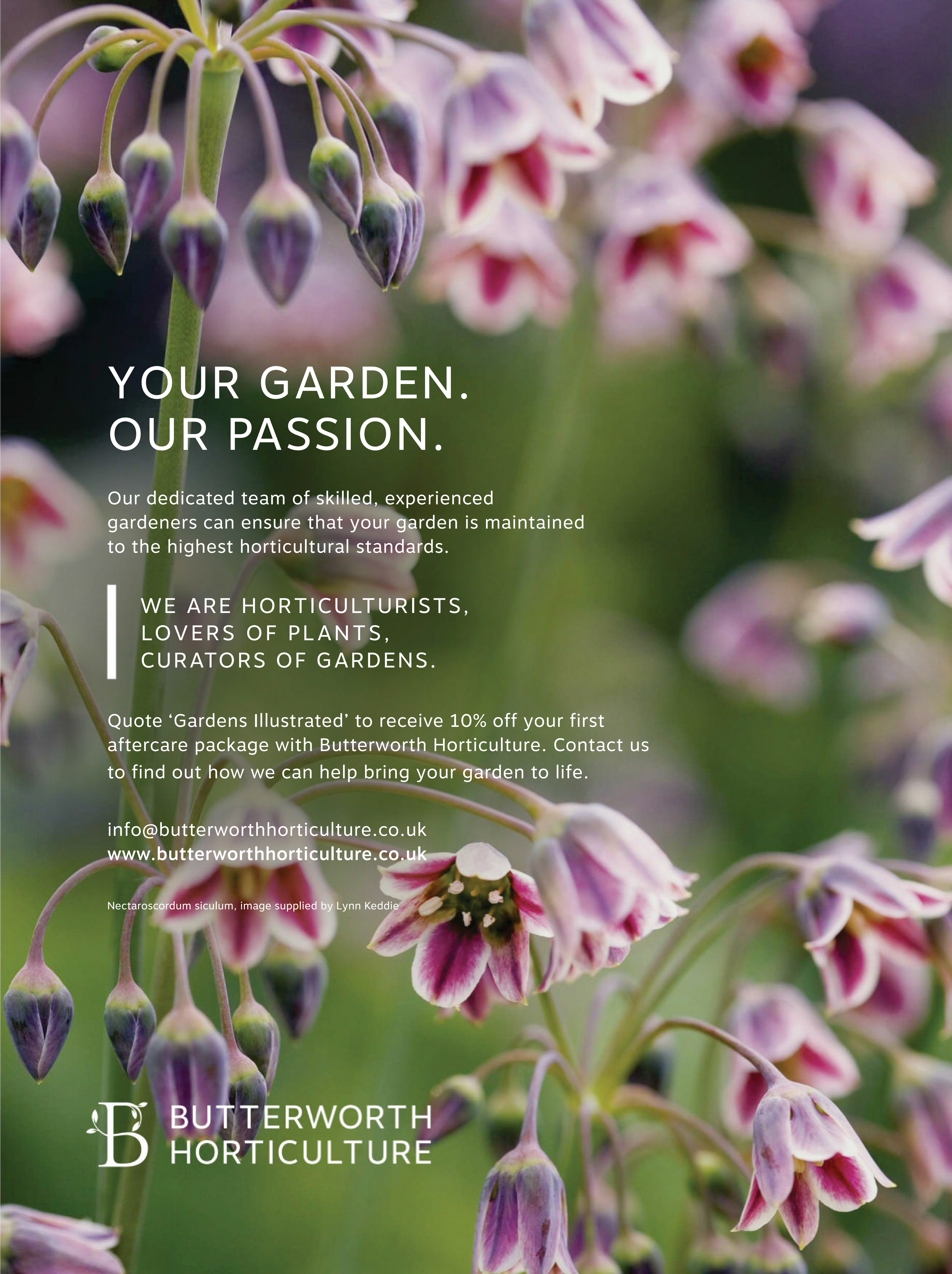

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Nectaroscordum siculum, image supplied by Lynn Keddie

BUTTERWORTH
HORTICULTURE

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Chelsea Fringe 18-26 May

Running alongside the flower show, the Chelsea Fringe celebrates plants and gardening throughout the UK and beyond, from community projects to Italian fine dining

WORDS **HANNAH TRIBE**

❶ Art in an Urban Oasis

Discover the environmental wonder of a closed-loop food-waste-energy system by sampling the culinary delights at the Calthorpe Project Garden near King's Cross. Students from Central Saint Martins will also be filling the garden with art.
When 18 May, 12-7pm.
Where Calthorpe Project, 258-274 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LH.
Tel 020 7837 8019.
Web calthorpeproject.org.uk

❷ Daisy Chain World Record Attempt

Help take part in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the longest daisy chain at Dovehouse Green on King's Road. The event ties in with a V&A retrospective of the work of Dame Mary Quant, who used the daisy as her emblem and who opened her first boutique, Bazaar, on King's Road in 1955.
When 18 May, 2-5pm.
Where Dovehouse Green, King's Road, London SW3 6NT.
Web kingsroadchelsea.london

❸ Matisse-Inspired Bottle Garden Installation

Children from Horniman Primary School, in southeast London, have been growing bee-friendly plants from seed, and recycling plastic bottles to use as colourful planters with Matisse-inspired designs. Their bottle garden has been lovingly nurtured by the team at the nearby Horniman Museum. If you find yourself inspired by the creative work on display by the pupils, you can decorate your own bottle at one of two workshops on 18 May.
When 18-26 May, 7.15am-8.30pm.
Where Horniman Museum, 100 London Road, London SE23 3PQ.
Tel 07947 813923.
Web horniman.ac.uk

❹ Thrive Selfie Trail

Celebrate gardening charity Thrive's 40th birthday by following a trail of selfie frames around its four gardens in Battersea Park. The frames, designed by Thrive gardeners on the theme of natural creativity, will encourage participants to explore views of the park.
When 18-26 May, 11am-4pm.
Where Main Garden, East Carriage Drive, Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ.
Tel 020 7720 2212.
Web thrive.org.uk

❺ From This Land

Feel inspired by a mixed media exhibition at Omved Gardens, in Highgate, north London. In collaboration with specialist ceramics gallery Thrown, the show will feature work responding to nature, as well as ikebana flower arrangements made by floral artist Aya Tanaka.
When 18-26 May, 11am-6pm. ▷

3 YOLANDA CHIARAMELLO; 8 DIANA JARVIS.

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▷ **Where** Omved Gardens, Townsend Yard, London N6 5JF.
Tel 07949 445459.
Web omvedgardens.com

⑥ Bloomin' Barnet Bins

Barnet community groups will transform neighbourhood bins with floral installations. Local supermarkets will donate flowers that are past their sell-by date for these surprising displays highlighting the joy of recycling.
When 19 May, 1-3.30pm.
Where Oak Hill Park, Grahame Park Estate, London EN4 8JP.
Tel 07765 017865.
Web theflowerbank.org.uk

⑦ Peaceful Garden

Find peace and quiet in the secret garden of Henley Quaker Meeting House. Let the peaceful surroundings inspire you to draw or write, or simply take some time to stand and stare.
When 19 May, 2-5pm.
Where Henley Quaker Meeting House, 45 Northfield End, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2JJ.
Web midthamesquakers.org.uk

⑧ What are Gardens For?

As a precursor to Garden Open Squares Weekend (8-9 June), Ruth Holmes, chair of London Parks and Gardens Trust, will lead a discussion on the value and purpose of gardens with panellists including Nigel Dunnett and Claire Ratinon.
When 21 May, 6-8.30pm.
Where Coutts Skyline Garden, Coutts, 440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS.
Web opensquares.org

⑨ Into the Light

The main room at South London Botanical Institute will be filled with a fascinating floral installation made entirely from found, foraged and discarded natural forms. The event will be complemented by music.
When 23 May, 6-8pm.
Where The South London Botanical Institute, 323 Norwood Road, London SE24 9AQ.
Tel 020 8674 5787.
Web slbi.org.uk

⑩ Scented Flower and Herbal Ice Cream Workshop

Learn how to make delicious ice creams from scented flowers and herbs in this north London workshop run by Kitty Travers of La Grotta Ices.
When 25 May, 2-4pm.
Where King Henry's Walk Garden, 11c King Henry's Walk, London N1 4NX.
Cost £10-15.
Web khwgarden.org.uk

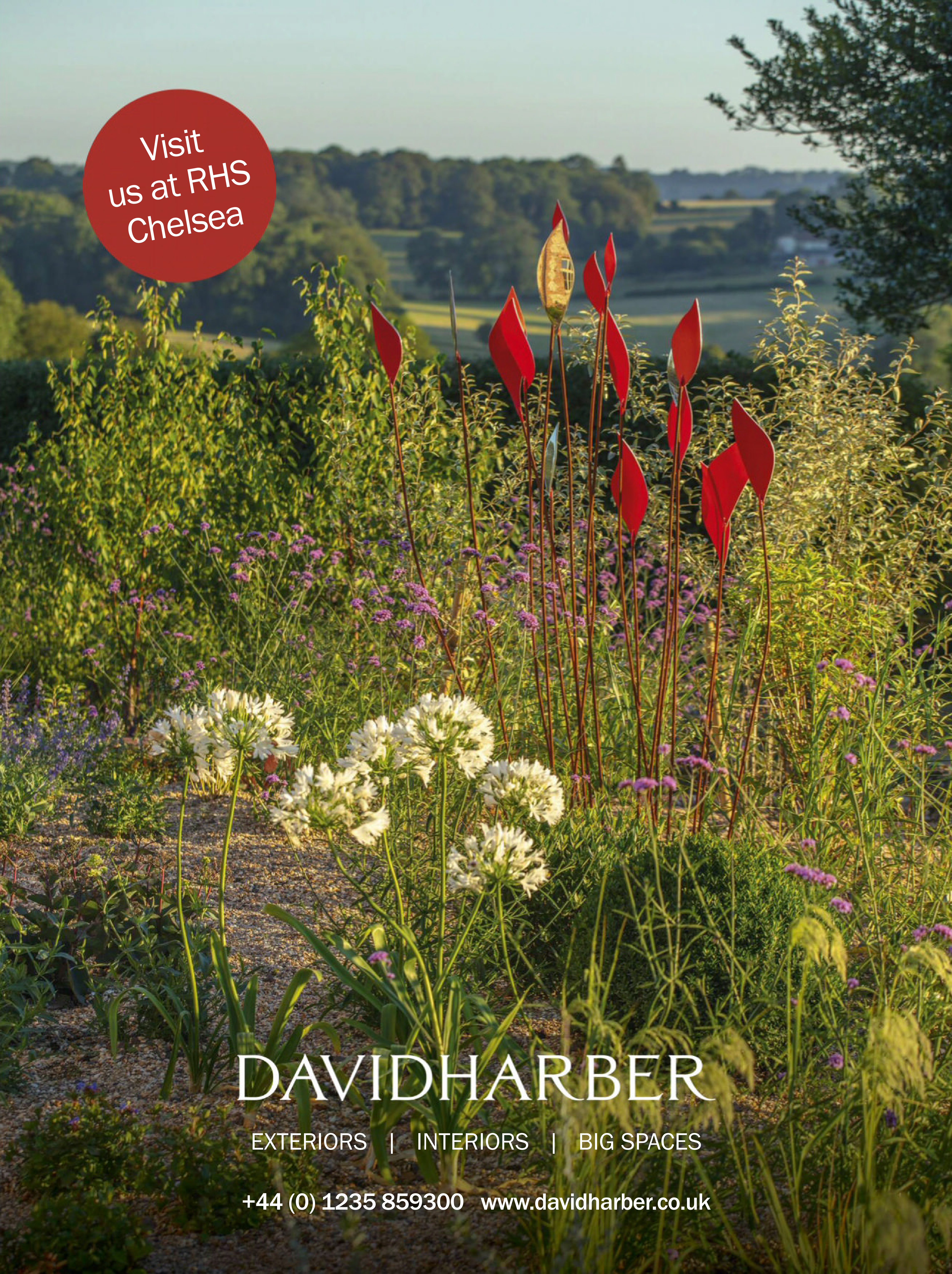
⑪ Garden Gourmet – The Flowers in the Plate

This year the Chelsea Fringe extends to the Italian city of Parma, famed for its ham and hard cheese. Enjoy a meal of delicious local produce, with each course served in a different garden around the historic city, accompanied by music and surrounded by art. Booking essential.
When 25 May, 6.30-11pm.
Where Parma, Italy.
Cost €45.
Web vivatichet.it

⑫ Cranbrook Goes Nuts in May

Cranbrook High Street will be taken over by a celebration of plants and the food, arts and crafts that can made from them. Among the stalls brimming with local produce and expertly grown plants there will be craft demonstrations, activities for children, music and dance.
When 26 May, 10am-5pm.
Where High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EE.
Tel 07721 672348.
Web cranbrookgoesnutsinmay.co.uk

Find more events at **chelseafringe.com** Please check event details with venue before travelling. Follow #Chelsea Fringe on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.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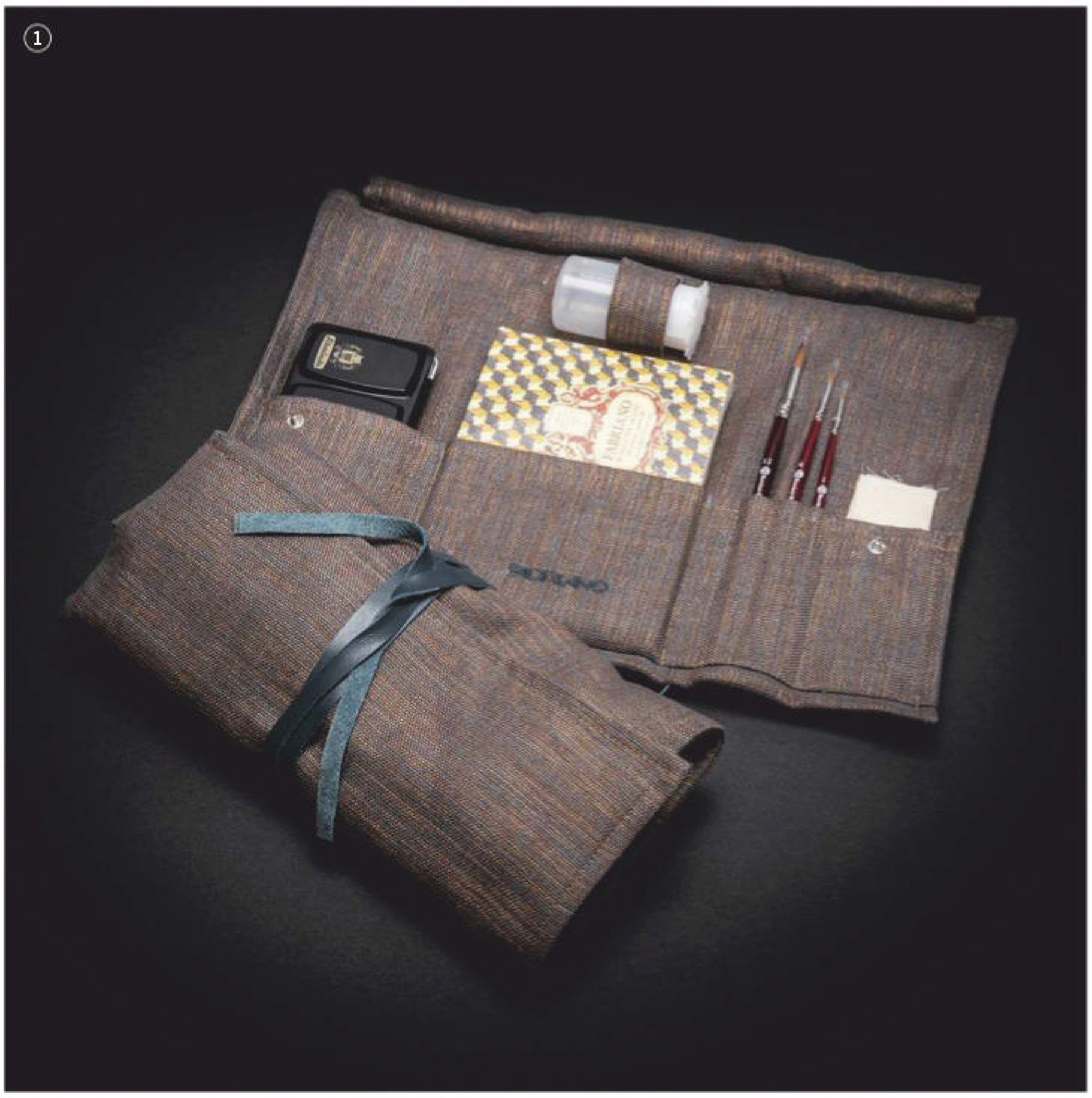

MAIN IMAGE (THIS PAGE AND OVERLEAF) BY STEVE SAYERS

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CASS ART LONDON
12
WATERCOLOUR PENCILS

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1. Fabriano Watercolour Set, £150, 0344 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk **2. Daler Rowney Simply Portable Field Easel,** £14.95, 020 7619 2601, cassart.co.uk **3. Hay Kitchen Scissors,** £5, 020 3499 0194, connox.co.uk **4. Monograph Watercolour Paintbrushes, set of 4,** £48, 0344 848 4000, conranshop.co.uk **5. Leica M À La Carte Customisable Camera,** from £5,550, 020 7629 7351, uk.leica-camera.com **6. Canvas Garden Bag, khaki,** £15, 01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk **7. Artists' Watercolour Pencils, set of 12,** £8.50, 020 7619 2601, cassart.co.uk **8. Bisley Leather Folding Stool,** from £40, 0844 567 8365, farrar-tanner.co.uk

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WINSOR & NEWTON
Artists' Water Colour Paper
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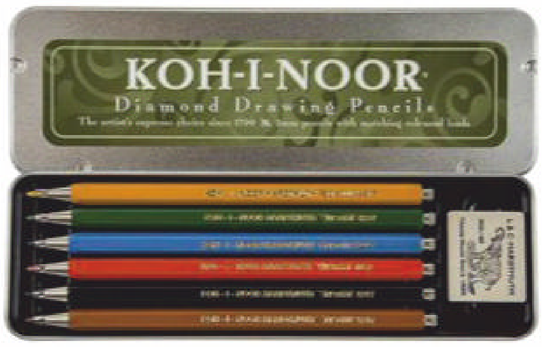
KOH-I-NOOR
Diamond Drawing Pencils

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1. Winsor & Newton Professional Water Colour Tube Bamboo Wooden Box, £61.95, 020 7619 2601, cassart.co.uk **2. Roam Camera Bag, ochre,** £169, 01424 814968, thefuturekept.com **3. Koh-I-Noor Diamond Drawing Pencils, set of 6,** £35.99, 01884 259856, cultpens.com **4. Traditional Wooden Trug, medium,** £26.99, 0114 233 8262, burgonandball.com **5. Microfleur Microwave Max Flower Press,** £42.99, amazon.co.uk **6. Recycled Glass Bud Vases, mustard yellow, dark green, powder blue, grape purple, avocado green,** £12.95 each, 020 7221 4566, summerillandbishop.com **7. Work Jacket, navy,** £145, 020 7729 6253, labourandwait.co.uk

LOTS ROAD AUCTIONS

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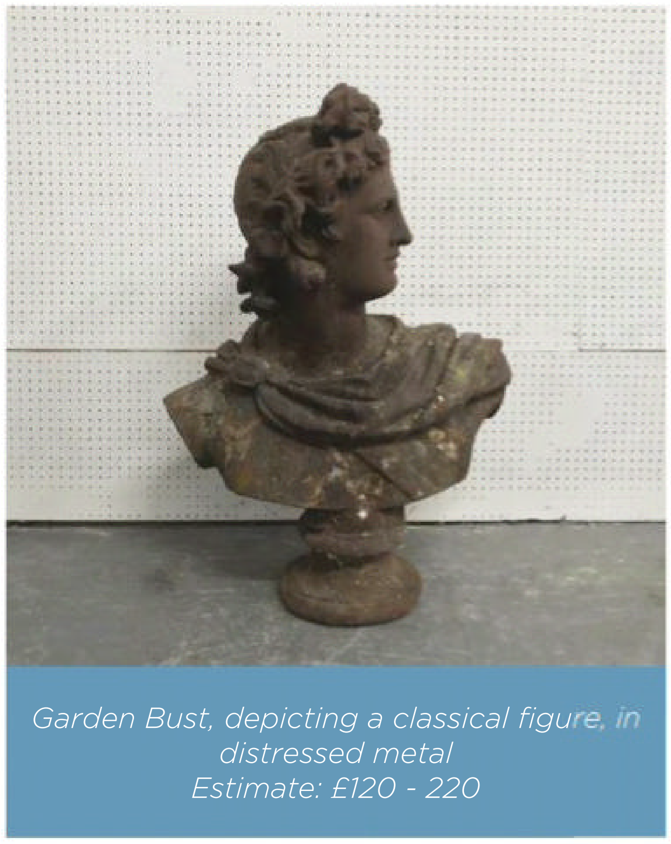
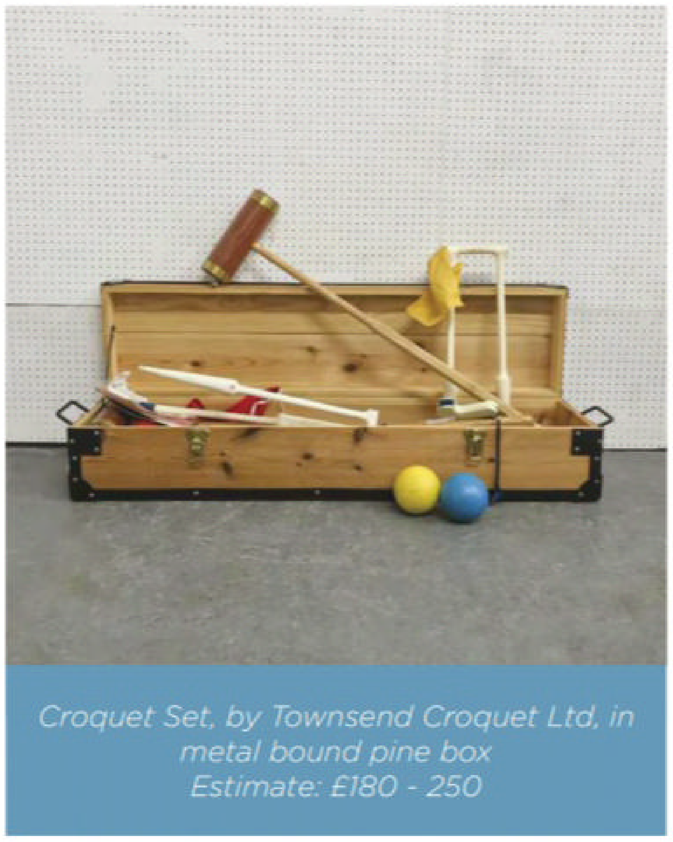
Dovecote, white painted, French provincial style design
Estimate: £200 - 300

Garden Urns, a pair, with covers in distressed painted terracotta
Estimate: £450 - 650

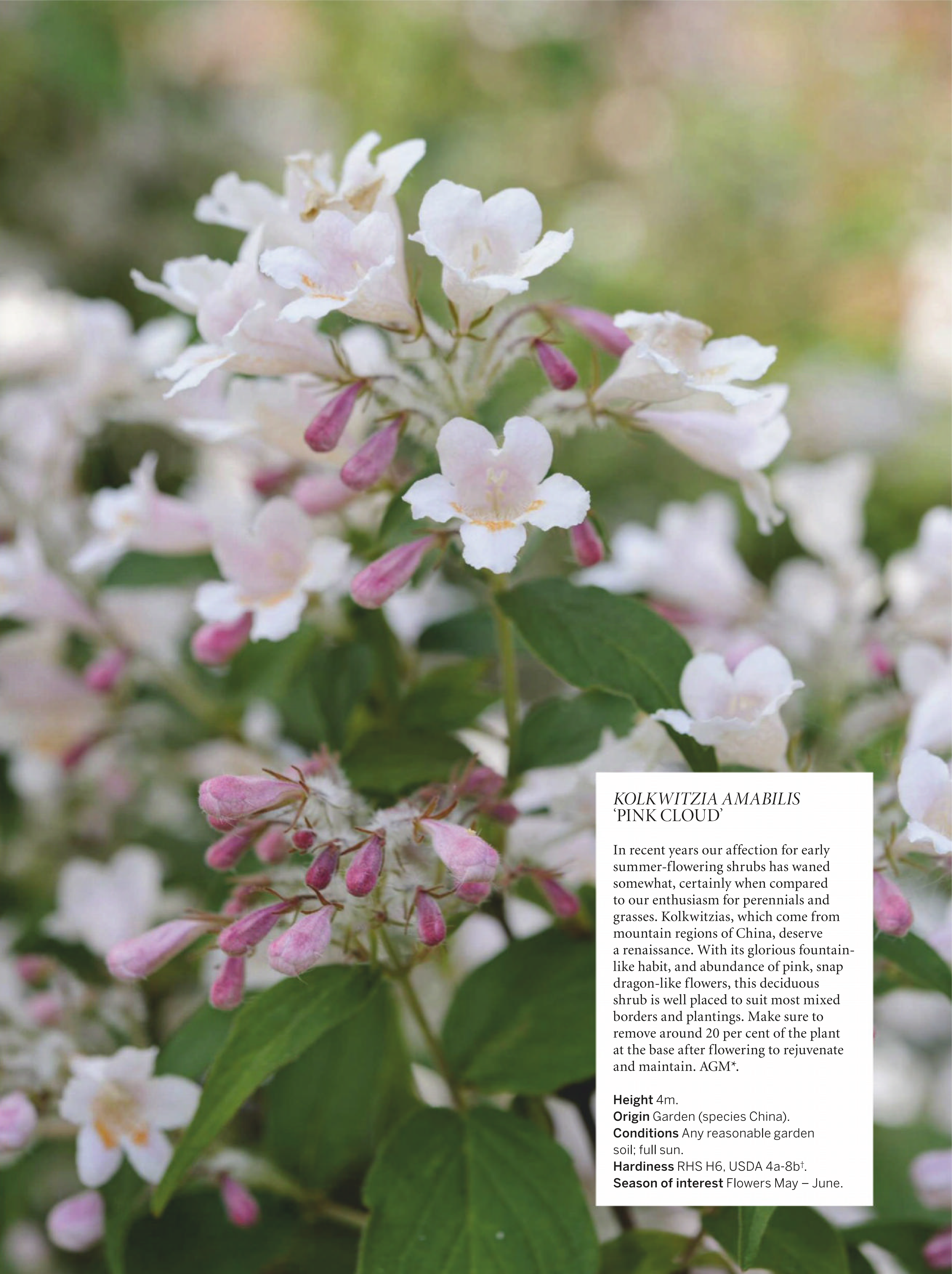


Garden Bust, depicting a classical figure, in distressed metal
Estimate: £120 - 220



Croquet Set, by Townsend Croquet Ltd, in metal bound pine box
Estimate: £180 - 250

Furniture and objects for the house, garden and conservatory



KOLKWITZIA AMABILIS ‘PINK CLOUD’

In recent years our affection for early summer-flowering shrubs has waned somewhat, certainly when compared to our enthusiasm for perennials and grasses. Kolkwitzias, which come from mountain regions of China, deserve a renaissance. With its glorious fountain-like habit, and abundance of pink, snap dragon-like flowers, this deciduous shrub is well placed to suit most mixed borders and plantings. Make sure to remove around 20 per cent of the plant at the base after flowering to rejuvenate and maintain. AGM*.

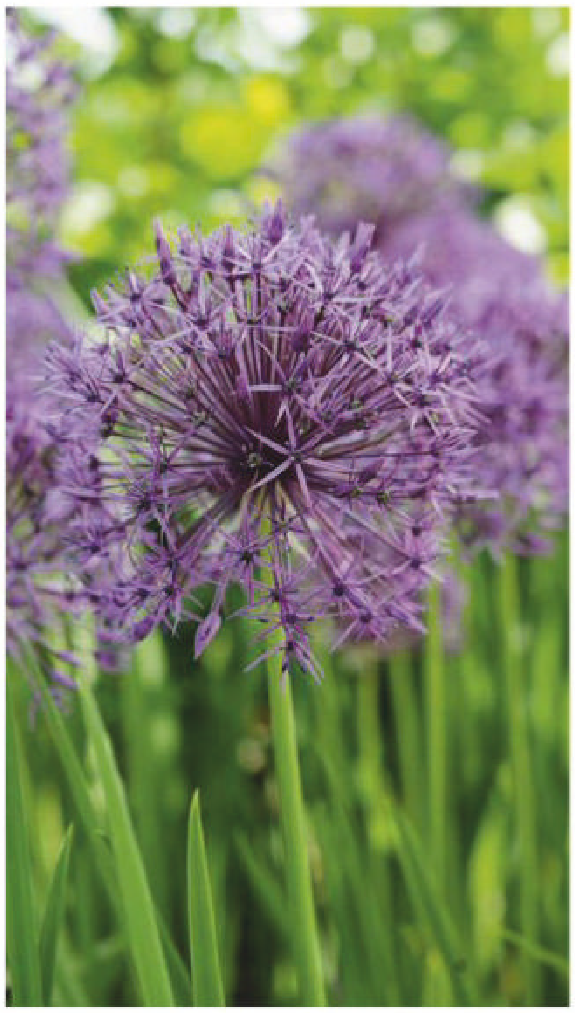
Height 4m.
Origin Garden (species China).
Conditions Any reasonable garden soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b†.
Season of interest Flowers May – June.

MAY PLANTS

As spring slides towards summer, Tom's picks include two exquisite irises, an underused flowering shrub and a reliably perennial allium

WORDS TOM BROWN PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

Tom Brown
is head gardener
at West Dean Gardens
westdean.org.uk



ALLIUM 'PURPLE RAIN'

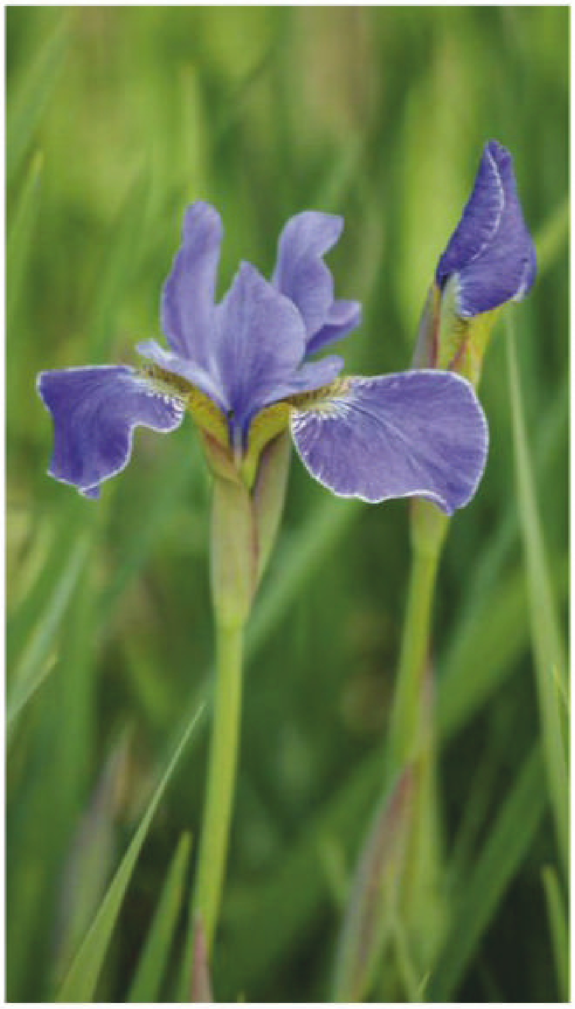
Like many gardeners I know, I'm always on the look out for reliable, perennial performance in an allium. I've played the allium lottery for many years, but with this one I've hit the jackpot. It's a cultivar of *Allium jesdianum*, which has proven to be reliable in my garden, not only producing a good-sized flower but reappearing after some of the toughest winters, increasing in number each time. I successfully associate this cultivar with roses, perennials and grasses in naturalised and formal situations. Worth trying if you fancy a change from the ever popular 'Purple Sensation'. AGM.

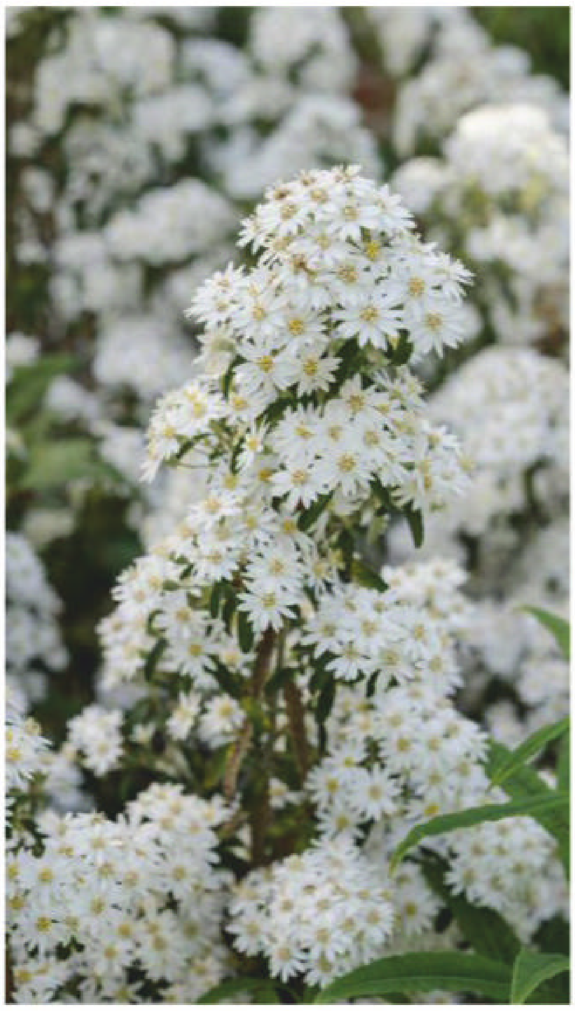
Height 60cm.
Origin Garden (species Iraq and Iran).
Conditions Moist, free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.
Season of interest Early summer.

IRIS 'SILVER EDGE'

If you have space for just one Siberian iris then 'Silver Edge' is hard to beat. Its abundant and large flowers are a rich blue colour and have a distinctive silver edge that gives them a real presence. They appear above grass-like foliage in May and June, and are most floriferous if they are given a sun-drenched position with a reasonable level of moisture during the summer. They'll tolerate shade and drier conditions once they're established but you'll find that their performance will be a little compromised as a result. AGM.

Height 1m.
Origin Garden (species central Europe to southeastern Russia).
Conditions Fertile, moist but well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest Early summer.





OLEARIA PHLOGOPAPPA

I defy anyone to walk past one of these beautiful plants when it is in full swing and not be completely bowled over by the sheer number of tiny, daisy-like flowers that smother it. From May to July they cover the dense, dark-green foliage of this rounded shrub from tip to toe. Known as the Tasmanian daisy bush, it is an Australian native that is best situated in full sun in a free-draining soil, and you will need to be careful not to overshadow it with brutish neighbours. In colder areas, you will also need to provide it with some shelter and protection from excessive winter moisture.

Height 1-1.5m.
Origin Australia.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest Spring and early summer.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

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IRIS 'JANE PHILLIPS'

I use 'Jane Phillips' a lot. Its large and scented, pale-blue flowers appear profusely in early summer, making it perfect for cutting. To maintain your display, make sure that the rhizomes are exposed to the sun and look to divide your clumps every three to four years after flowering. Deservedly popular, this tall-bearded cultivar grows to around one metre in height, making it perfect for use as an accent of early colour in a border or gravelled area. Make sure the rhizomes avoid both competition and shade in high summer. AGM.

Height 1m.
Origin Garden (Mediterranean).
Conditions Free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-10b.
Season of interest Late spring and early summer.

EREMURUS HIMALAICUS

Originating from areas with semi desert-like conditions, foxtail lilies are, to say the least, pretty tough. The fleshy rooted perennials thrive in free-draining, sun-baked positions, and in early summer their stately, white flowers tower above other plants on leafless stems in a majestic fashion. They dislike disturbance, and competition and shade from other plants, so to prevent accidentally lifting their shallow, octopus-like root systems while they're dormant, I mulch them with gravel to highlight their position in a border.

Height 2m.
Origin Afghanistan, northwestern Himalayas.
Conditions Free-draining soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.
Season of interest May and June.

GERANIUM PHAEUM 'ALBUM'

I started to use this geranium mainly to capitalise on its robust nature and vigour, but I was soon won over by its grace and elegance. With pendent, pure-white flowers that hang above lime-green foliage in early summer and beyond, it illuminates dark, shady areas under trees and dusky, north-facing positions. As the flowers appear early in the season, position near the back of the border so that, as the blooms fade, other plants can be grown in front, to disguise the geranium as it dies down.

Height 1.5m.
Origin Southern and central Europe.
Conditions Moist, well-drained soil; partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 5a-7b.
Season of interest Flowering from May until August.

PLACES TO VISIT

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best both in the UK and Europe

Not far from Lausanne in the Swiss canton of Vaud, the impressive **Château de Vullierens** has been owned by the same family for more than 700 years. In late spring one of the highlights of the château's 100 or so acres is the jardin d'Iris, which is home to a stunning collection of almost 50,000 irises, featuring more than 400 different species and cultivars. The collection includes dwarf irises, tall bearded irises and Siberian irises, offering colour from late April to July. Created in the 1950s by the current owner's mother, Doreen Bovet, the garden is divided into seven themed areas and also features collections of rhododendrons, peonies, roses and daylilies. Les Jardins du Château de Vullierens, CH-1115 Vullieren, Switzerland. Tel +41 (0)79 274 79 64, chateauvullierens.ch/en

Another European plant collection worth visiting in May is the extensive selection of epimediums at **Tuingoed Foltz** in the Netherlands. Owners Bob Foltz and Andries Bierling specialise in these and other unusual woodland plants, and hold the Dutch equivalent of National Collections of both *Salvia* and *Echinacea*. Hereweg 346, 9651 AT Meeden, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)598 635 000, tuingoedfoltz.nl

At this time of year one the real treats at **Great Dixter** in East Sussex is the Front Meadow: the two grassed areas that greet visitors when

▷

MESPILUS GERMANICA

Medlars deliver on several fronts: they're perfect for a small garden, and they offer a long period of interest, with flowers in May that develop into autumn fruits. Plus those fruits provide a delicious autumn bounty. Its large, single, rose-like, white flowers appear in early summer among the dark-green foliage and are followed by small, edible, russet-brown, apple-like fruits that are ready to harvest in November. When formatively pruned, it grows into a beautiful, spreading, deciduous tree that works either as a standalone specimen or among a mixed planting.

Height 8m.
Origin Europe and Asia.
Conditions Moist, fertile soil; full sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.
Season of interest Flowers May.

TROLLIUS X CULTORUM 'TALEGGIO'

With bowl-like, double, lemon blooms that appear in early summer when softer yellows can be hard to find, this globe flower is a standout plant. Ideally suited to a position in the garden that retains moisture through the summer. All being well, divide every few years to promote vigour. Compared to its brightly coloured, hybridised siblings, 'Taleggio' associates well with a variety of colour palettes, complementing old-fashioned roses and a variety of mixed plantings. Should be used more often.

Height 1m.
Origin Garden hybrid of *T. europaeus*, *T. chinensis* and *T. asiaticus*.
Conditions Moist, well-drained soil; sun or partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-7b.
Season of interest May until June.

PERSICARIA BISTORTA 'SUPERBA'

From May, cigar-shaped, pale-pink flowers appear on wiry stems. I cut the flowers to decorate the house as soon as they appear as there's no shortage of them. Once cut they don't last long but this regular cutting is an ideal way to keep the plant producing. As it grows in a mat-like fashion, this vigorous, reliable perennial is equally happy in well-drained soil as in moist, marginal positions. It's what I like to call a 'good doer'. AGM.

Height 90cm.
Origin Europe, Siberia, Japan and western Asia.
Conditions Most well-drained garden soils; sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.
Season of interest Early summer and beyond if deadheaded.

▷ they enter through the unassuming front gates. Orchestrated for many years, these meadow areas display a dedication to the art of meadow creation. Carpets of snake's head fritillaries, spotted orchids and camassias create a rich tapestry in late spring and early summer. Beneath the fruit trees, on the south side of the garden, the principal meadow site is another must-see area. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk

Less well known but worth a visit is **Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery.** This two-acre garden in rural Cheshire is an absolute gem, particularly in May when the adjoining ancient woodland is carpeted with native, English bluebells. Visitors are also treated to contemporary herbaceous plantings, gravel gardens and a large pond. The nursery, which offers 700 types of perennials, mostly propagated on site, is a must for plant lovers. Bluebell Cottage, Dutton, Cheshire WA4 4HP. Tel 01928 713718, bluebellcottage.co.uk

Stretching over five acres, the **Old Rectory** in Dorset has been designed and maintained by its owners Simon and Amanda Mehigan for the past 25 years. Formal areas with clipped topiary surround the house but as you wander further down the garden, the planting becomes wilder and more naturalistic. The garden has several interesting features, including a bog garden, and cutting and kitchen garden. Look out for the stream that meanders through the bog garden, flanked by hostas and calla lilies. Check the NGS website for details of opening times in late May and early June. The Old Rectory, Netherbury, Beaminster, Dorset DT6 5NB.ngs.org.uk

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The Outsider

Horticulturist Hannah Gardner follows the siren call of Italy's Sibillini National Park, lured by the promise of scarce wild peonies amid the grassy, limestone hillsides awash with wildflowers

WORDS HANNAH GARDNER ILLUSTRATION ALICE PATTULLO

The Sibillini is one of Italy's newest National Parks. The high-altitude chain of the Sibillini Mountains crosses from the eastern edge of Umbria into the Marche, joining the central Apennine backbone of Italy. The park covers 70,000 hectares of this idyllic mountainous region. A paradise for wildflowers and butterflies, there are still wolves, porcupines, wildcats and wild horses roaming here.

The fascinating, walled town of Norcia is the birthplace of St Benedict and the gastronomic centre of Umbria. The town is gallantly being rebuilt after a massive earthquake in 2016, and you can contribute to its recovery by basing yourself here. It's within easy reach of the National Park, which can also be approached from the beautiful village of Visso in the north. Dropping into the Campi valley, the impressive karst basin of Piano Grande (1,500m) lies before you. Once a mountain lake, now a vast, verdant pasture, its moist soil is rich in organic matter, the porous limestone beneath holding underground reserves of water. In late spring the beech woodlands and grassy expanses are crammed with flowers. Snow-capped mountains form the perfect backdrop.

Inspiration for the trip

I love the grace and relative modesty of wild plants, and often seek the 'original', having first been familiar with its flashy, cultivated garden cousins. So it is with peonies, which grow wild in relatively small numbers through Europe, Asia and northwest America. In ancient times the peony was held in high esteem as a medicinal plant. Paeon, the physician of the Greek gods, gave the plant its name. It is likely that its popularity in herbal medicine through the ages – in the treatment of kidney problems and epilepsy, for example – has reduced wild populations and led to its scarcity.

When to go

There can be spring frosts on the plateau until late May, so it's a short summer with abrupt temperature changes between day and night. The cornfield annuals are at their most spectacular in June and July, while the tulips, orchids and peonies are glorious in May.

Where to go

The traditionally managed woods and meadows above and along the Campi valley that lead into the Piano Grande are extraordinarily serene. Find endless drifts of inky *Muscari neglectum* and slender Iznik-style *Tulipa sylvestris* subsp. *australis* – a delicious burnt orange in bud, it opens yolk-yellow in the sun. White asphodels effortlessly tower over their diminutive neighbours. Wander through slowly and the diversity soon becomes apparent: boxy, mottled *Fritillaria montana*, scented *Narcissus poeticus* and 16 species of orchid are found in the region, including the sword-leaved helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* (a woodlander) and the distinctive, dark-tipped, burnt-tip orchid *Neotinea ustulata*. I spotted the dark-ruby goblets of *Paeonia officinalis* growing out in the open and in partial shade, but seeking moisture from deep soil. On the vast plain below, solitary foragers filled their baskets with mushrooms plucked from a sea of tiny star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*). The turf on the higher slopes, which reach 1,800m, is littered with small, limestone rocks, and studded first with crocuses and later with mats of royal-blue, spring gentians, rockroses and a delightful contrasting mix of pale, primrose-yellow and showy, deep-magenta elderflower orchids (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*).

The remote village of Castelluccio di Norcia is perched on a glacial spoil heap at the far end of the Piano Grande at the foot of towering Mount Vettore (2,476m). It is famous for its organically produced crops of delicate lentils. In July the plateau is dramatically sheeted by a kaleidoscopic patchwork of colourful, cultivated fields bursting with beautiful, cornfield annuals – *Agrostemma githago*, cornflowers and *Papaver rhoeas*. Hiking trails are numerous, but also unnecessary, as the open ground encourages exploration of the encircling hills, the basin and the southern slopes of Mount Vettore.

Plant to grow at home

The common peony, *Paeonia officinalis*, is a slow-growing, but long-lived, hardy perennial that has been in cultivation since the 16th century. Many modern cultivars have the woodland-dwelling Asian species *P. lactiflora* as their ancestor, but it is worth noting that the European species, favouring a more open mountain habitat, is readily available in cultivation as a double form. *P. officinalis* 'Rubra Plena' (dark red) and *P. officinalis* 'Rosea Plena' (deep pink) are long-flowering, cottage-garden favourites.

Flowering in May, peonies appreciate sun, and rich, well-drained soil with some moisture and an annual feed of well-rotted manure, applied to avoid smothering the crown. Do not plant them too deep – a couple of centimetres of soil above the crown is plenty. Left undisturbed, they are resilient, defying rabbits and deer, and tolerating neglect. Double cultivars often require a light support to keep them together after rain. Their blousy, densely coloured blooms add texture and a sense of glamour and opulence to a planting scheme. They look good set amid the early, fluffy foliage of bronze fennel, and alongside *Iris* and *Astrantia*. They also make beautiful cut flowers and the petals are edible.

Guides and maps

Kompass Maps 2474 and 2473.
Wildflowers of the Mediterranean by Christopher Grey-Wilson and Marjorie Blamey (A &C Black, 2004).

Where to stay

Palazzo Seneca
12 Via Cesare Battisti, 06046 Norcia, Italy.
Tel +39 0743 817434, palazzoseneca.com
Beautiful, historic building with a small spa in the cellars and a restaurant.

Il Casale San Martino
Viale della Stazione, 06046 Norcia, Italy.
Tel +39 3899 613483, ilcasalesanmartino.it
Family-run hotel with wonderful views.

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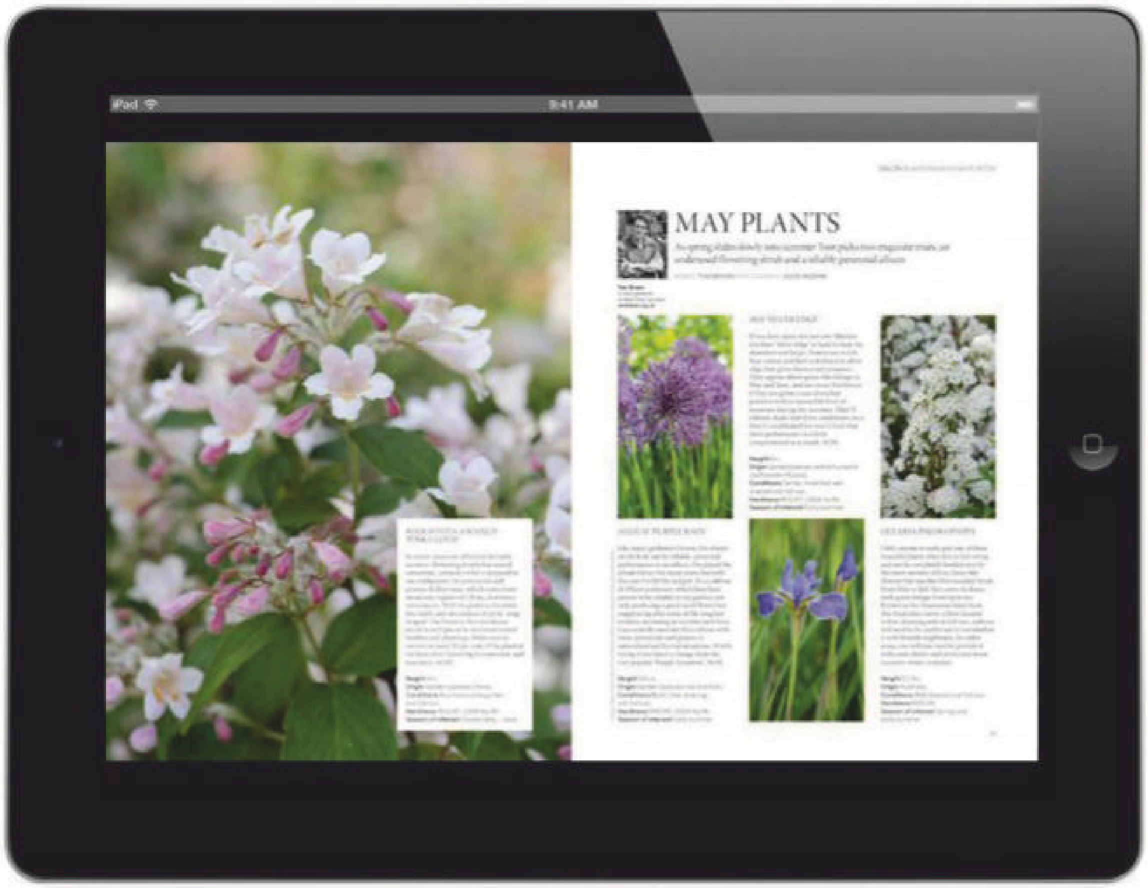

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GARDENING TALENT

Joseph Atkin

From tadpole gazing in his childhood garden pond to visiting wildflower meadows in China, Aberglasney's head gardener has always found inspiration in the natural world

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest garden memory I pretty much grew up in the garden – I was never inside much and remember spending hours gazing at tadpoles in the pond.

First plant love From the age of ten, I suddenly became obsessed with fuchsias for quite a few years.

Who has inspired your career the most? I have been really lucky as so many people have helped me. Bob Brown has been a real mentor helping me develop my plantsmanship, and Roy Lancaster encouraged and inspired me to travel and study plants in the wild, which has been a big influence in the way that I garden. But Mum is the gardener from whom I learned the most and the person who I think like when I'm gardening.

What did you do before you became a gardener? I tried selling Land Rovers and worked in the timber industry but was never happy. Eventually my Mum got fed up of me moaning and sent me to an open day at Pershore College. I've never looked back.

Favourite landscape The wildflower meadows and woodlands of Yunnan in China are probably still the greatest influence on my gardening style. Naturalistic styles are the most beautiful to me.

Most valuable training I had three amazing years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It's a wonderful learning environment.

What principles have guided your attitude to gardening Enthusiasm and commitment are important. I also feel you should be as ambitious as possible with the land you are working on.

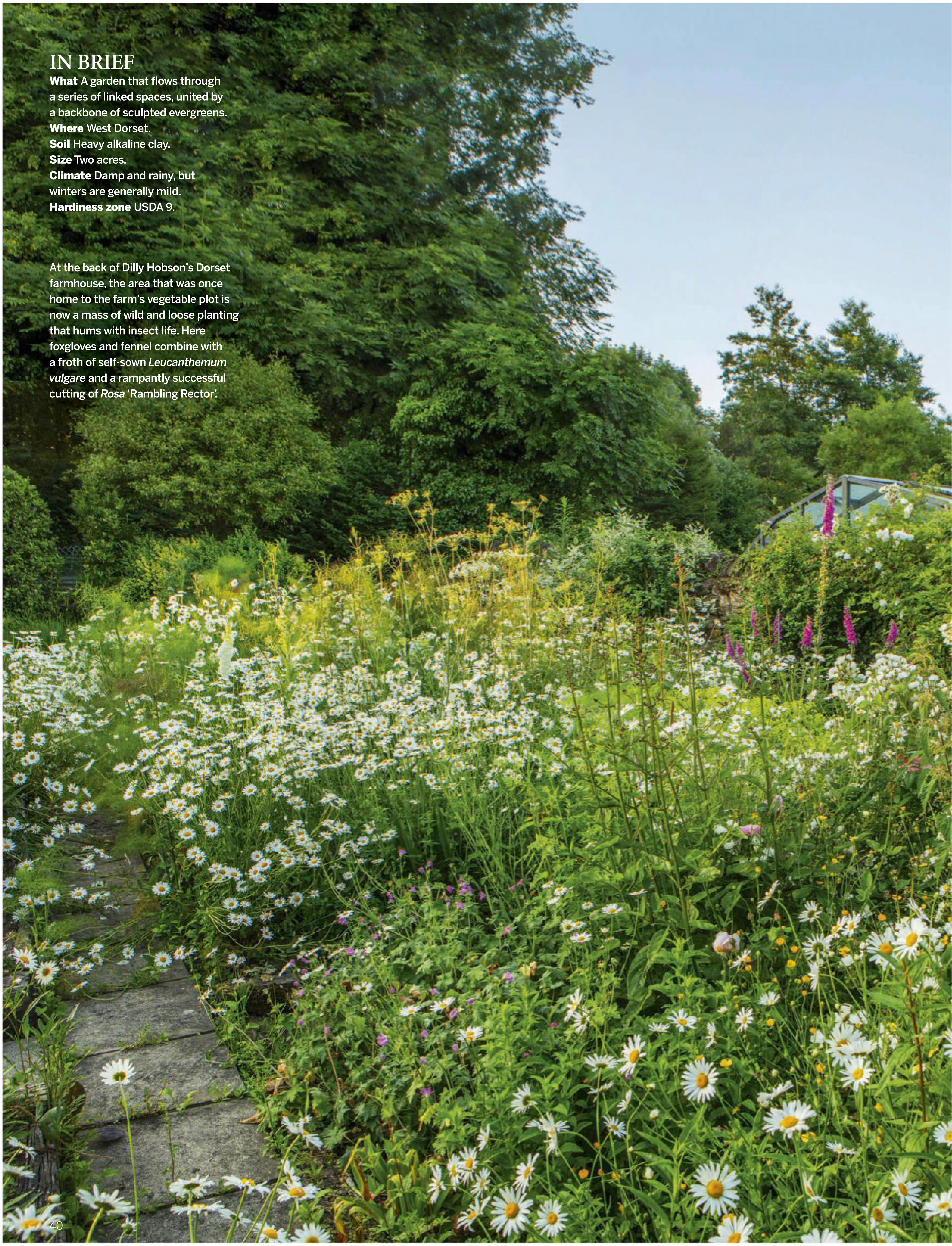
In what direction do you see horticulture heading in the next few years? I am excited that people seem to have a much wider range of interests in horticulture. This should mean things won't get samey.

Favourite gardening book The *RHS Plant Finder* – there's not a day that goes by when it does not get used.

What is the next big project you'll be tackling in the garden? At Aberglasney we have just purchased 11 acres of woodland that we will be turning into an arboretum that is a little different to the norm.

Contact headgardener@aberglasney.org

Joseph is running six practical gardening workshops at Aberglasney throughout 2019. For details about these and the gardens themselves go to aberglasney.org



IN BRIEF

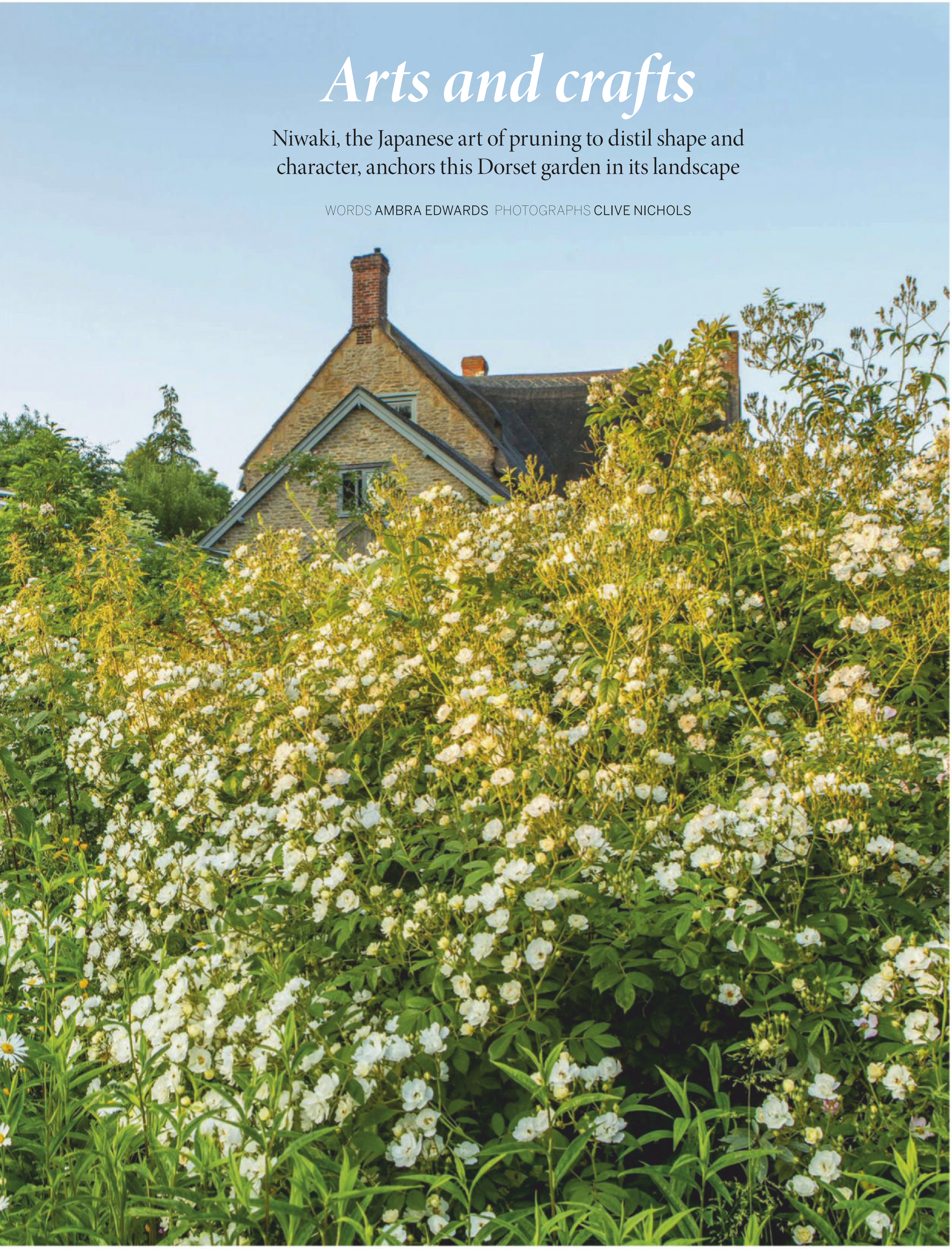
What A garden that flows through a series of linked spaces, united by a backbone of sculpted evergreens.
Where West Dorset.
Soil Heavy alkaline clay.
Size Two acres.
Climate Damp and rainy, but winters are generally mild.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

At the back of Dilly Hobson's Dorset farmhouse, the area that was once home to the farm's vegetable plot is now a mass of wild and loose planting that hums with insect life. Here foxgloves and fennel combine with a froth of self-sown *Leucanthemum vulgare* and a rampantly successful cutting of *Rosa* 'Rambling Rector'.

Arts and crafts

Niwaki, the Japanese art of pruning to distil shape and character, anchors this Dorset garden in its landscape

WORDS **AMBRA EDWARDS** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLIVE NICHOLS**



JAKE WAS ABLE TO MAKE MY BIG ROUND EVERGREENS ATTRACTIVE AGAIN, AND GIVE THEM A CRISP, DEFINED SHAPE

In Dilly Hobson's barn a photo pinned to the wall shows a wind-battered farmhouse on a barren Dorset hilltop, hemmed in by rusting cowsheds amid an expanse of concrete. Looking around, it is hard to believe that this is the same spot. For today the hills are clothed with trees, roses ramble over the house walls, and the house is surrounded by a verdant garden in which abundant, romantic planting is carefully balanced with a complex layering of artfully shaped evergreens.

"There's still a bit of the concrete left," sighs Dilly, pointing to a path that runs down to a newish pond. For 27 years, Dilly's tools of choice have been a mattock and a four-foot crowbar, as she has hacked a series of garden spaces out of the intractable stony clay, that bakes iron-hard in for months in summer.

Making this garden has been hard labour. Dilly's first task was to plant shelter belts of native trees in the surrounding fields, and then a protective bank of laurel nearer the house. Even so, the fierce southwesterlies still roared in, bouncing off the walls she had constructed from the remains of the sheds, and ripping up every newly planted shrub. "The only thing was to cushion every surface in quick shrubs that would absorb the wind – mainly pyracantha." A few still remain, but as the garden has matured, these have been replaced by more elegant selections – *Osmanthus* x *burkwoodii* and *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Rhamnus* and evergreen *Eleagnus*, and glossy variegated hollies. "People can be dismissive of variegated foliage," says Dilly, "but I think it brings a welcome lightness to the garden, especially in winter."

From the first, she had a very clear picture in her mind of the kind of garden she wanted – something broadly Arts and Crafts, that would anchor the house into its landscape; welcoming and intimate – a sunny terrace to enjoy the view, not too tidy lawns, and daisy-sprinkled, Lutyens-style steps. Like many gardeners Dilly is completely self-taught "I didn't know about water tables, so a corner of the lawn is always wet. I planted everything too close together, and the tip-bearing apples, 'Worcester Pearmain', are always out of step with their spur-bearing neighbours."

Yet this is a garden that works. In spring there is cherry blossom and a bulb-spangled meadow area. By May, all is a froth of yellow and white – great swags of 'Rambling Rector' rose, papery yellow blooms of phlomis and evening primrose, creamy bracts of *Cornus kousa*. The new leaves of cotinus and *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', glow like ruby-coloured glass – heralding the deeper colours that will arrive in the borders later in the year, followed by cargoes of bright hips. Then, in the winter, the firm, semi-formal structure of the garden comes into its own – the highly ornamental stonework, the focal points marked by outsize pots or artworks made by Dilly's artist husband Tim, and above all, the Japanese-inspired topiary created by her son, Niwaki founder Jake Hobson.

"I love evergreens, and so I had a lot," explains Dilly. "And by the time Jake came back from Japan they were ready for a prune – they were just big shrubs." Jake, who had trained as ▷

Right The main border is dominated by evergreens, including bay trees for height and box figures at the front, tightly clipped to contrast with a soft and frothy mass of foliage from stachys, fennel and cosmos. Predominantly green for much of the year, the border bursts into colour in late summer, and is intended not as a conventional herbaceous border, but rather something more permeable, that can be looked through. At the back the walls are swathed with climbing roses, and flowering shrubs, including the fragrant *Rosa* 'De Resht'.

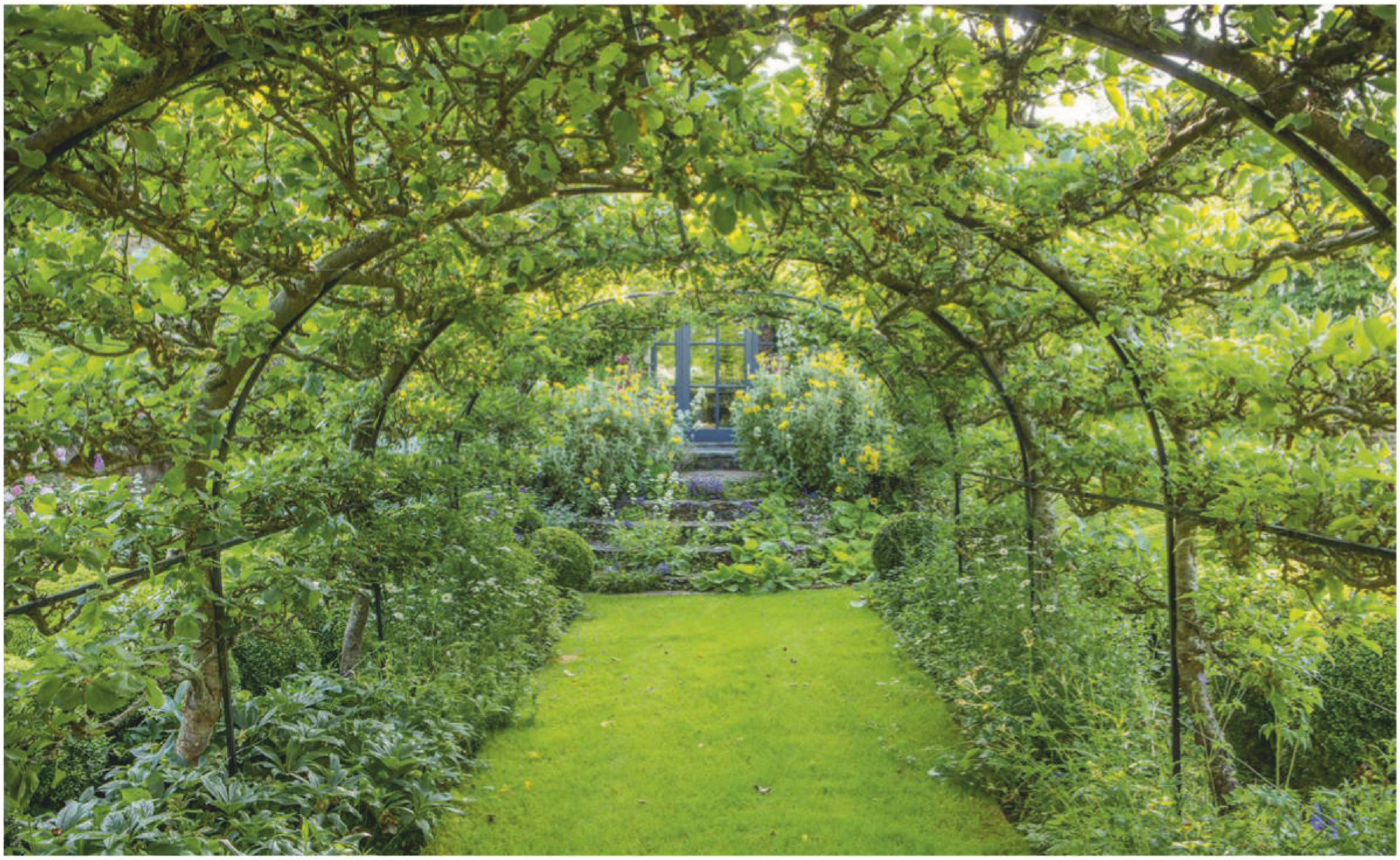
CLOUD PRUNING

Cloud pruning is an English term used to describe the sculpting of plant material into soft billows and cushions that takes its inspiration from the Japanese art of *niwaki*. The term *niwaki* translates simply as garden trees, and in Japan this style of pruning is said to depict the distilled essence of a tree. It is a highly sophisticated art: an apprenticeship to a *niwaki* master generally lasts seven years.

Over the past couple of decades it has become an increasingly popular form of pruning in the UK. It's one that perfectly suits Japanese-style gardens but can also be used as a feature in gardens of many different styles, and it is growing in popularity in the UK largely at the instigation of Dilly's son Jake Hobson.

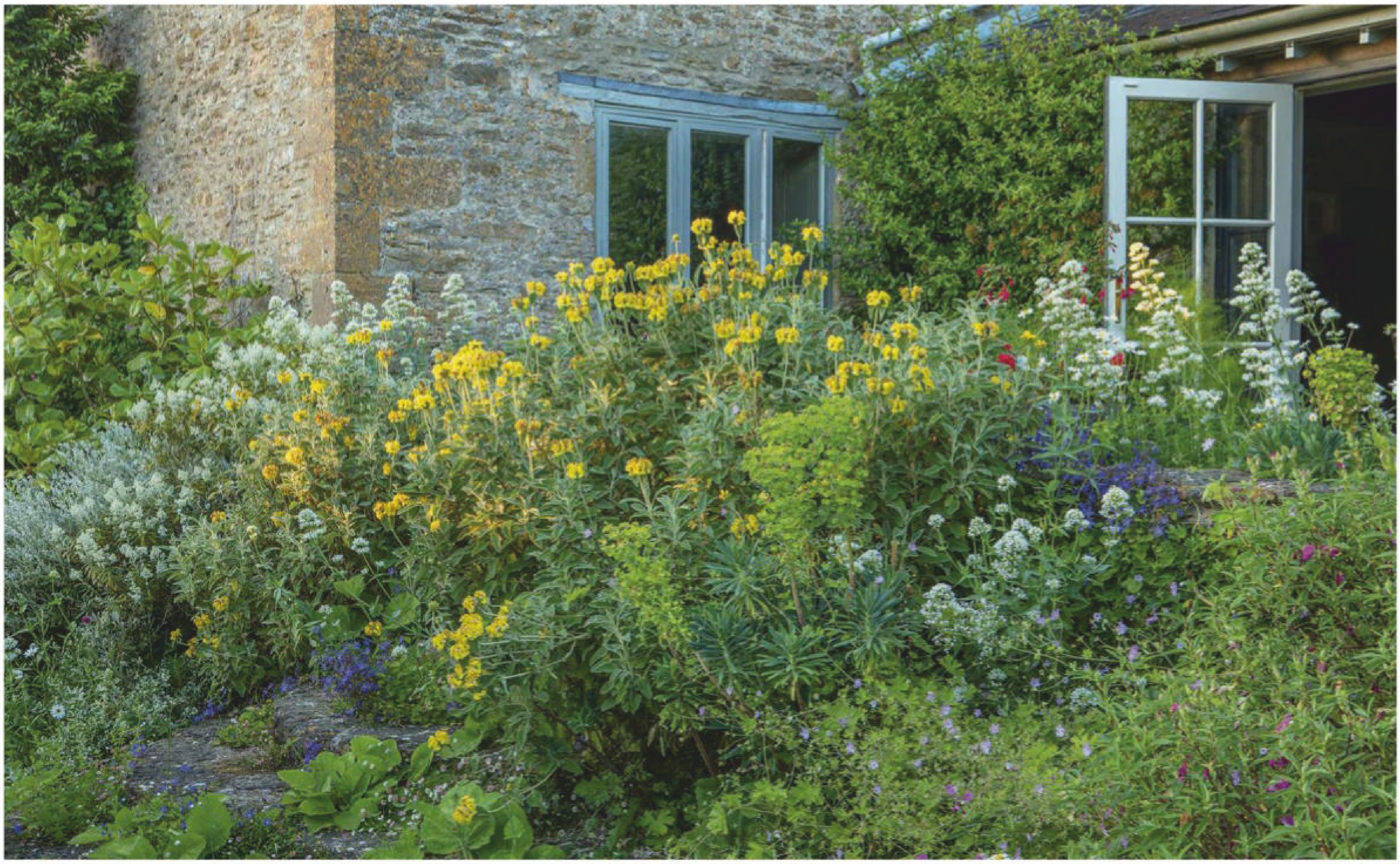
Jake uses the term *niwaki* to describe the art of pruning trees to keep them in proportion with the garden – very necessary in a country where garden spaces are often tiny – but also intended to make a microcosm of the landscape by clipping and training trees in a way that enhances their natural shape and character, and encourages gardeners to abandon the familiar cones, balls and pyramids in favour of more natural and fluid shapes.

Dilly's garden was Jake's test bed in seeking to adapt this art to the British garden. He found the wide range of evergreens with small, shiny leaves, such as *Phillyreas* and *Osmanthus*, ideal for this treatment though it works just as well with common box or yew.



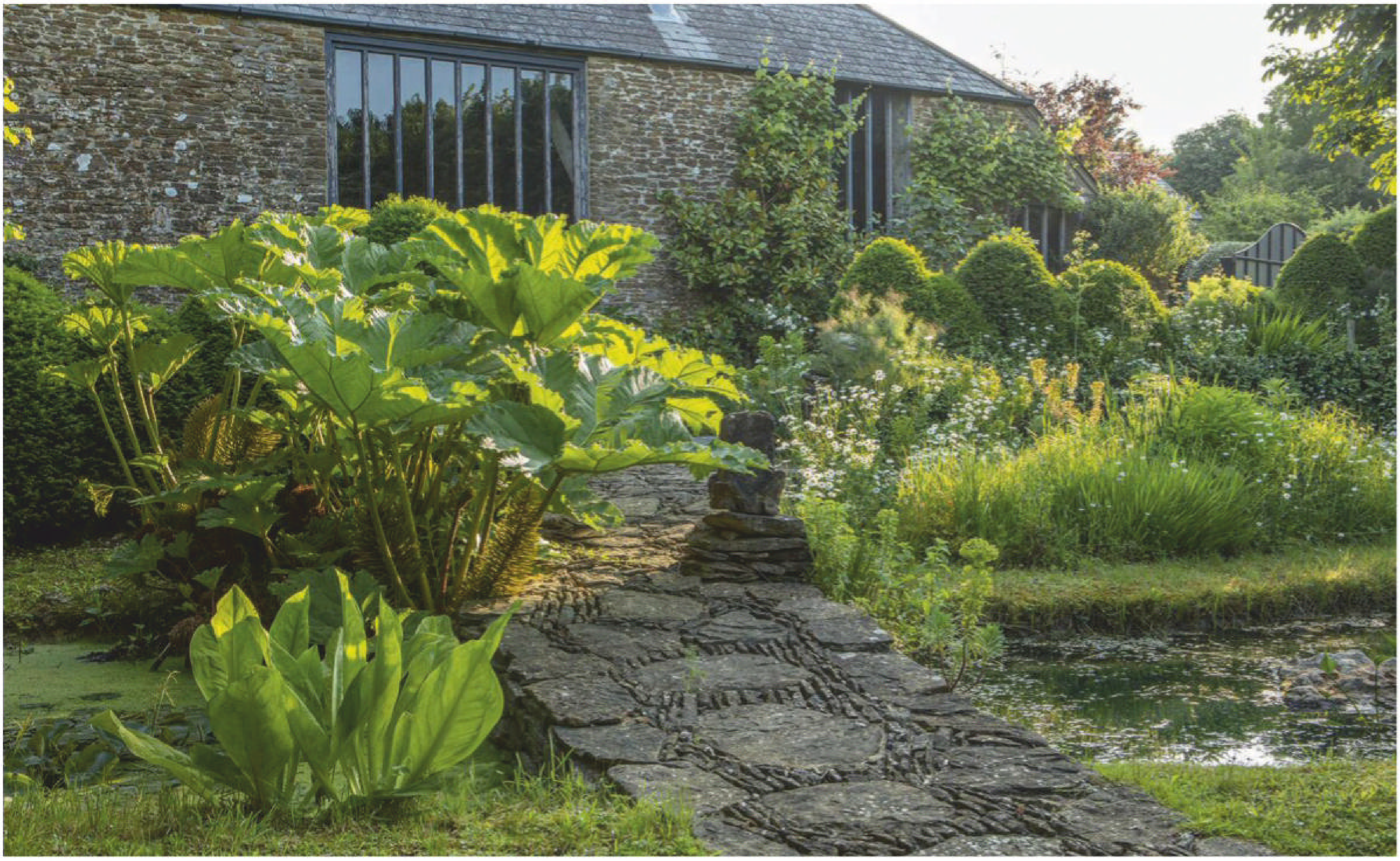
Above The apple tunnel was inspired by a similar tunnel at Heale House in Wiltshire, and includes many different cultivars, including 'Bramley', 'Worcester Pearmain', 'Egremont Russet', 'Kidd's Orange Red', 'Ribston Pippin', 'Jonagold' and 'Sunset'.

Below A cloud-pruned *Osmanthus* x *burkwoodii* offers a contrast with the natural forms of nearby trees, including the creamy bracts of *Cornus kousa*, which grows only very slowly on the garden's heavy alkaline soil, and the red-leaved *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'.



Above The grey-leaved shrub *Brachyglottis* 'Sunshine' (formerly known as *Senecio* 'Sunshine') and yellow-flowered *Phlomis fruticosa* form a backbone for an exuberant planting below the terrace, augmented by euphorbias, hardy geraniums and self-seeded white valerian.

Below A path made from stones gathered from the garden leads to a pond bordered by *Gunnera manicata* and skunk cabbage, *Lysichiton americanus*. On the other side is an area of damp-loving, late-season planting, including sanguisorbas, eupatoriums and vernonias.



▷ a sculptor, received a travel bursary in 1997 to visit Japan. He set out to study the cherry blossom, but was seduced by *niwaki*, the Japanese art of pruning. On return to England, he was keen to practise his new skills in his mother's garden.

At once it was a success. "We weren't trying to be authentically Japanese," says Dilly. "Just to do something a little bit different that would contrast with my rather wild and loose planting. Jake was able to make my big, round evergreens attractive again, and give them a crisp, defined shape. It's lovely I think – the way you see the light come through the lower branches. Definition is important in a garden, which is why I like our spiral mount best in the winter, when you can really see the clean lines of it."

The spiral mount was constructed in a meadow opposite the house as a project in 2000. By May the early spring flowers are over, but in its summer shagginess it is buzzing and humming with insect life. From here, Dilly can look over the green hills of Dorset and enjoy those bracing breezes she has so carefully excluded from the garden. It has been a colossal effort – back-breaking, but she wouldn't be anywhere else. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

The garden is occasionally open to visitors by prior arrangement, for details visit niwaki.com/jakehobson where you can also find information on Jake's workshops on creative pruning.

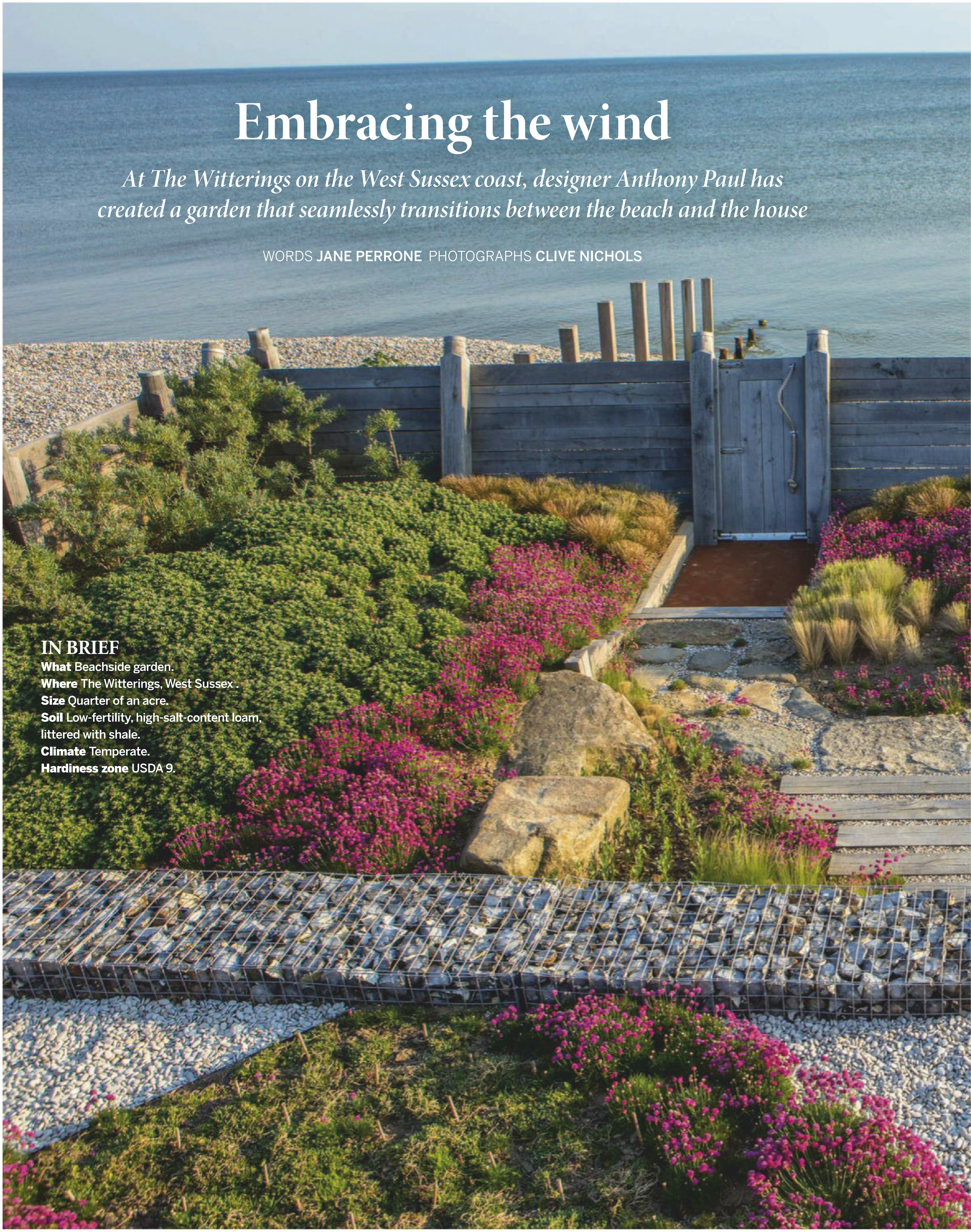
For more information on Niwaki's range of tools imported from Japan contact:
Niwaki, 8 Chaldicott Barns, Semley, Shaftesbury,
Dorset SP7 9AW. Tel 01747 445059, niwaki.com

IN ITS SUMMER SHAGGINESS THE SPIRAL MOUNT IS BUZZING WITH INSECT LIFE

Above The spiral mount has been made using rocks collected from the garden as a sub-base. By early summer, its crisp lines are obscured by a shaggy overcoat of wildflowers, principally wild carrot.

Facing page, above A Matisse-style frieze, by Dilly's artist husband Tim, acts as a counterpoint to a froth of self-sown *Leucanthemum vulgare* and Mediterranean planting.

Facing page, below From the top of the mount, there is a fine view of the surrounding fields, including a small patch of ancient woodland. Dilly has planted many more trees in the course of creating the garden, including the poplar to the left of the copse.



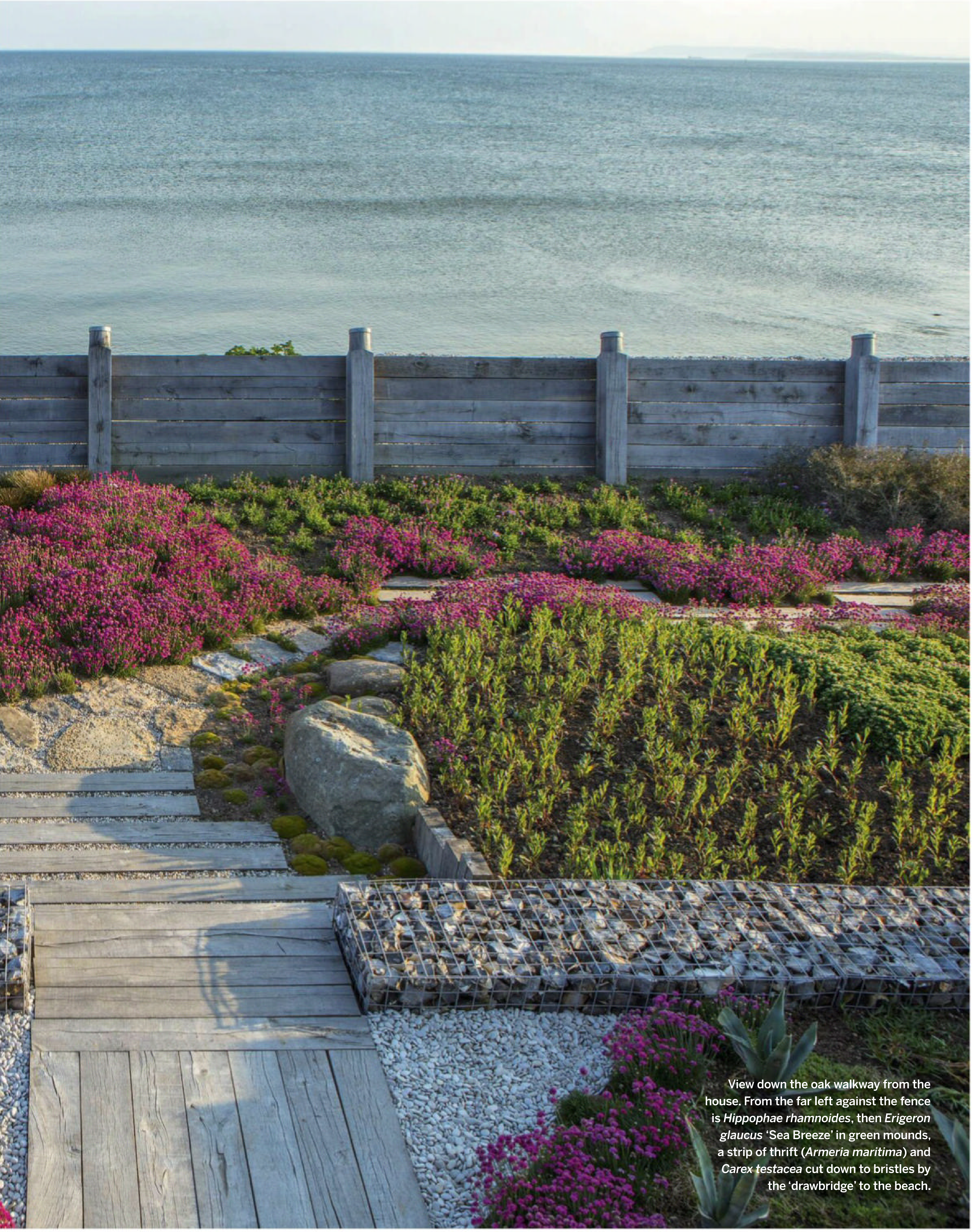
Embracing the wind

At The Witterings on the West Sussex coast, designer Anthony Paul has created a garden that seamlessly transitions between the beach and the house

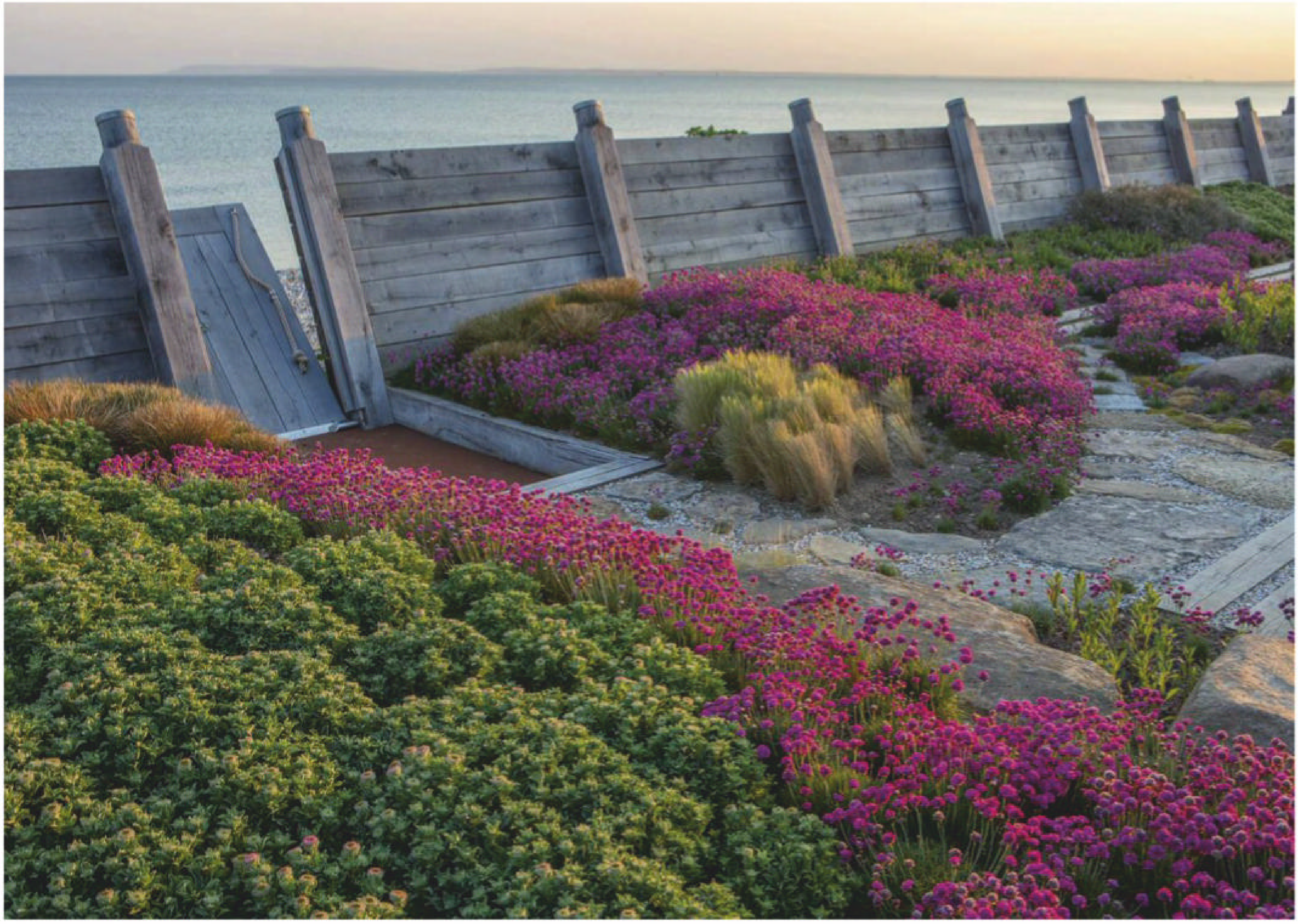
WORDS **JANE PERRONE** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLIVE NICHOLS**

IN BRIEF

What Beachside garden.
Where The Witterings, West Sussex .
Size Quarter of an acre.
Soil Low-fertility, high-salt-content loam, littered with shale.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.



View down the oak walkway from the house. From the far left against the fence is *Hippophae rhamnoides*, then *Erigeron glaucus* 'Sea Breeze' in green mounds, a strip of thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and *Carex testacea* cut down to bristles by the 'drawbridge' to the beach.



Could it be done? Carving a garden out of land so close to the sea that it is sometimes pounded by waves at high tide, set on one of the windiest coastlines in the UK?

Designer Anthony Paul had carte blanche when he was commissioned to design a garden at The Witterings on the West Sussex coast. “The first thing I did was walk along the beach and look for the plants that were growing there, and also at what other people were growing in their gardens,” he says.

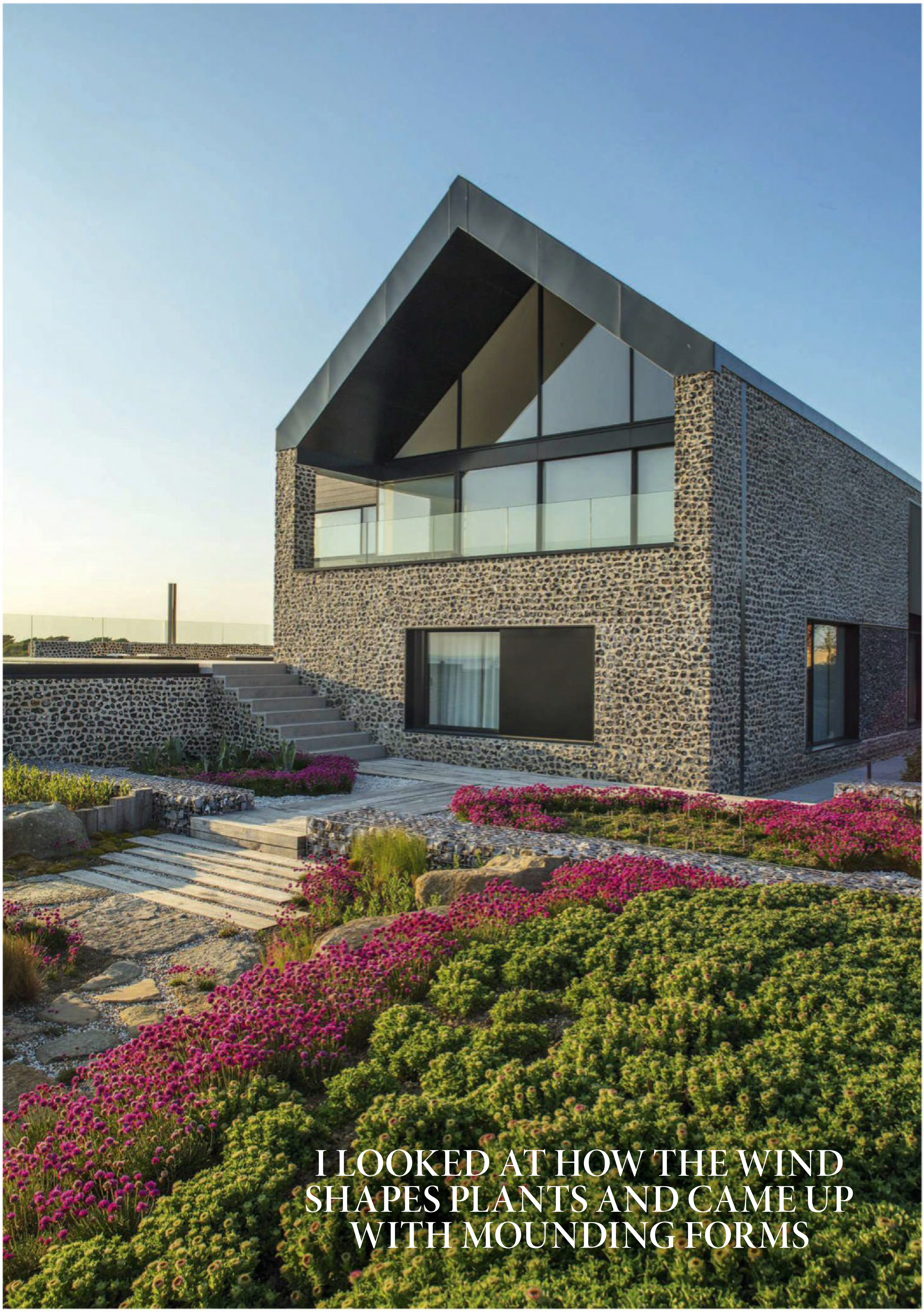
Anthony’s aesthetic for the project was to create a design that embraced the wind while mitigating its worst excesses, offering a seamless transition between the wildness of the beach and the more orderly space around the house. “Witterings is an old word for the wind, so I looked at how the wind shapes plants and how the garden would be shaped by the wind, and came up with mounding forms,” he explains. Key plants include *Erigeron glaucus* ‘Sea Breeze’, the Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), thrift (*Armeria maritima*)and sea kale (*Crambe maritima*): all are adapted to salty air and sea breezes, and offer a long-flowering period to create an extended season of colour from spring to autumn.

The hard landscaping also evokes a maritime feel, with boulders dotted alongside pathways to resemble the coastline and a windbreak made from heavy oak that is designed to resemble a pier. The fence leans outward from the garden towards the sea, to deflect the wind and waves and offer maximum shelter to the plants within. Access to the beach is provided by a clever, weighted drawbridge set into the fence.

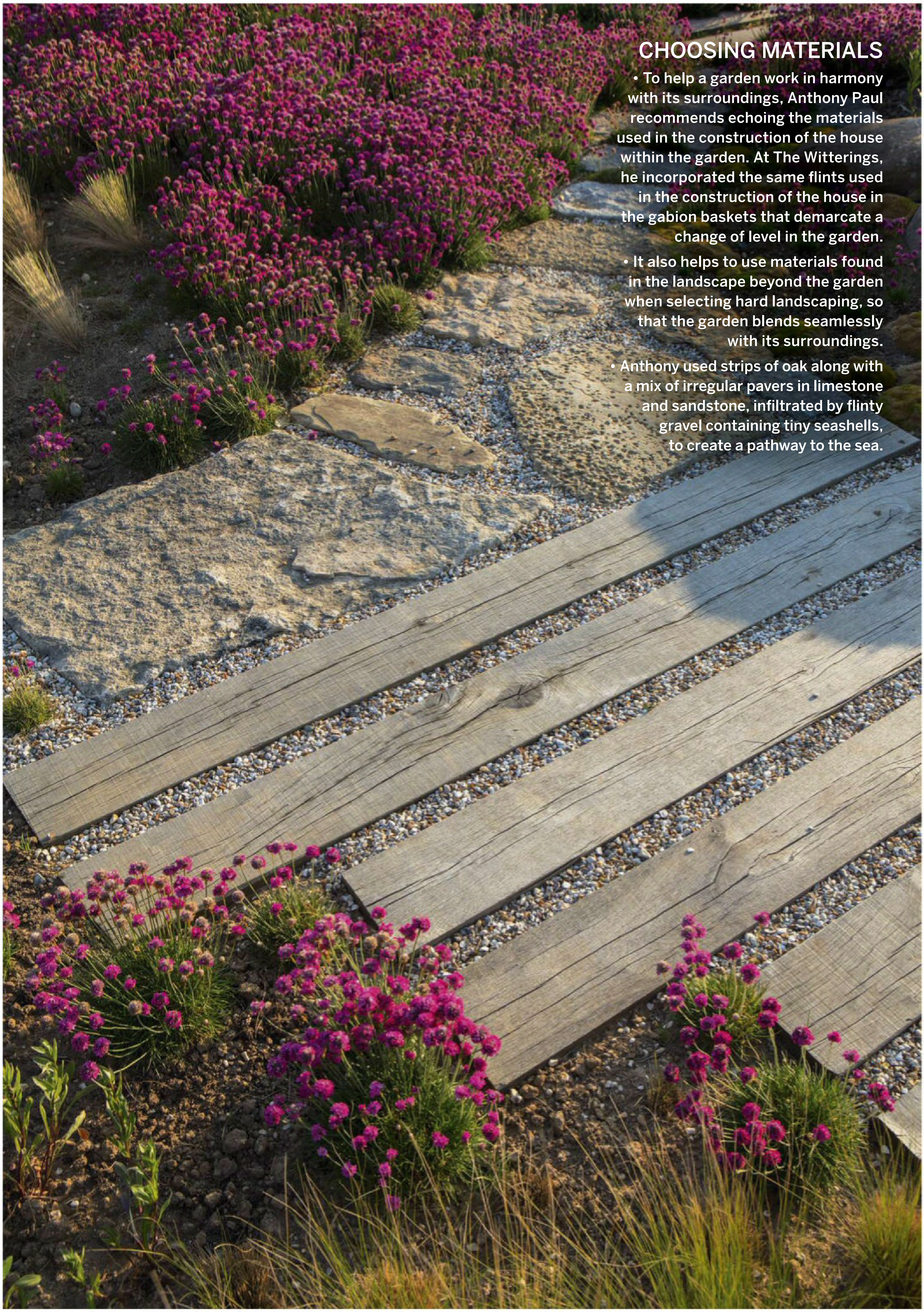
It is important for house and garden to have a ‘meeting place’, says Anthony, and so the two share common materials. For instance, the flints that feature in the walls of the house – a new-build designed by Mark Robinson of Poole-based Munden Robinson Architects – appear again in wire gabion baskets that mark a change in level as the garden slopes towards the sea. Anthony collaborated with the architects on the hard landscaping around the house, including steps leading up to a terrace and then on to a reflecting ‘sky pool’. “This acts as a mirror to the weather and brings the sky down on to the ground,” he explains. ▷

Above The garden’s boundary fence, made of oak, copies the style of a pier, sloping outwards to provide protection from high tides, and incorporates a drawbridge-style gate to the beach. Planting picks up the maritime species, including *Erigeron glaucus* ‘Sea Breeze’ on the left, a strip of thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and *Carex testacea* in the corner. The right-hand side of the path is flanked by the grass *Stipa tenuissima*, with more thrift behind it and *Aster alpinus* ‘Happy End’ in the background.

Right The flint of the house, is echoed in the stones Anthony has used in the paths and in the stone-filled gabions that mark a change in level in the garden, all of which tie the house and garden to the pebbled beach beyond.



I LOOKED AT HOW THE WIND SHAPES PLANTS AND CAME UP WITH MOUNDING FORMS



CHOOSING MATERIALS

- To help a garden work in harmony with its surroundings, Anthony Paul recommends echoing the materials used in the construction of the house within the garden. At The Witterings, he incorporated the same flints used in the construction of the house in the gabion baskets that demarcate a change of level in the garden.
- It also helps to use materials found in the landscape beyond the garden when selecting hard landscaping, so that the garden blends seamlessly with its surroundings.
- Anthony used strips of oak along with a mix of irregular pavers in limestone and sandstone, infiltrated by flinty gravel containing tiny seashells, to create a pathway to the sea.

THE POOL ACTS AS A MIRROR TO THE WEATHER AND BRINGS THE SKY DOWN ON TO THE GROUND

Above The raised terrace offers views out over the sky pool and boundary fence to the sea.

▷ The garden lapses into informality the further you move away from the house: the neat symmetrical oak pathway that leads towards the beach starts to break up into uneven strips set into flinty gravel studded with tiny seashells, before being replaced with rough asymmetric pavers that are almost indistinguishable from the shingle and sand of the beach close by. "It's all about keeping the garden looking natural – the further you come away from the house, the softer the garden needs to be," says Anthony.

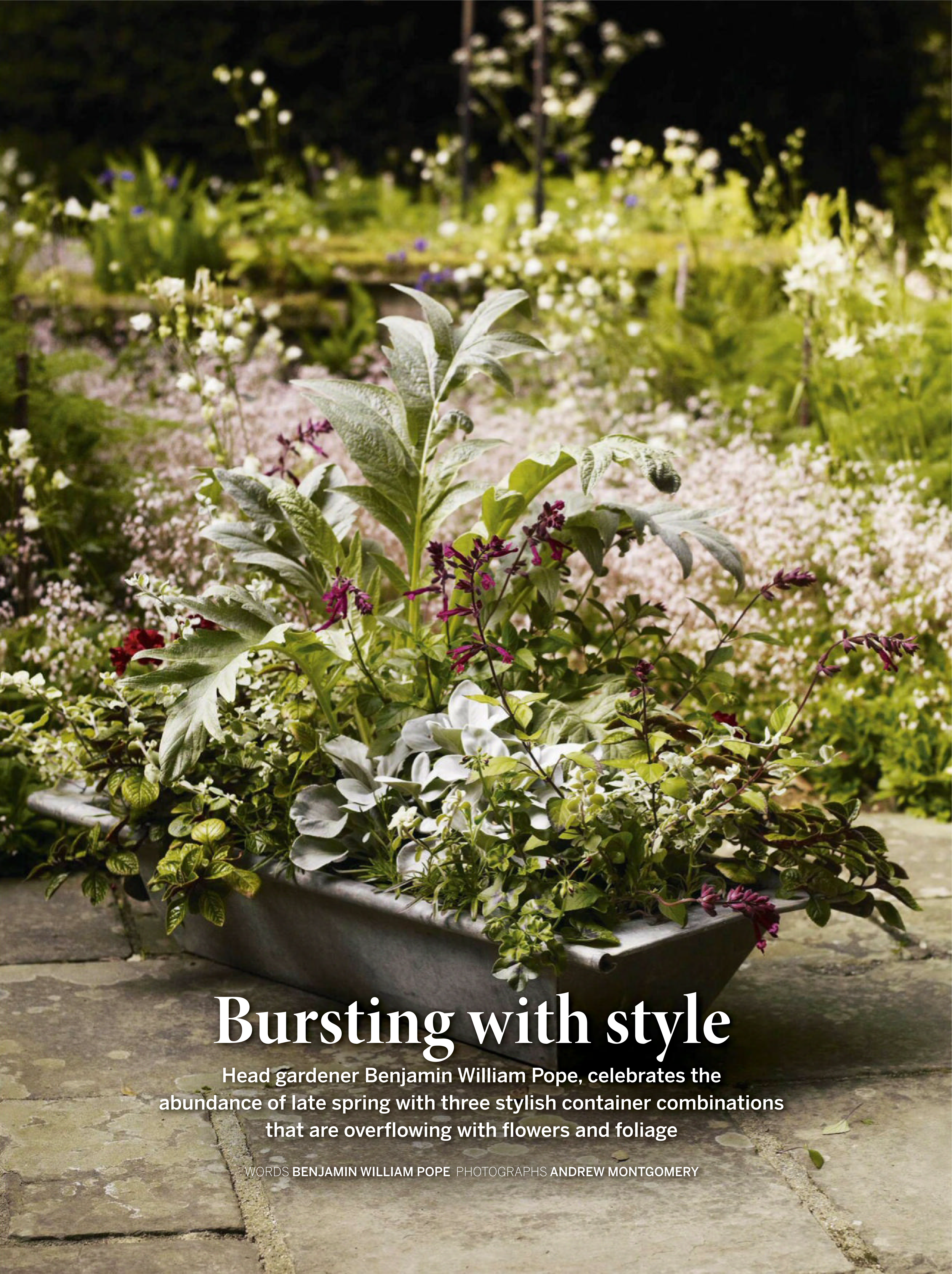
When it came to the planting, Anthony wanted to move beyond the usual suspects of coastal planting found on every nursery's plant list. As well as finding out what grew locally, he dug back into his childhood in New Zealand, where wind is also an issue. "I chose a lot of Australasian plants that wouldn't be seen a lot in the UK, such as *Pittosporum crassifolium*: in New Zealand it's one of the major coastal shrubs that grows right down the sea edge and makes a nice hummocky plant." He also recommends the shrubs *Corokia* x *virgata* 'Yellow Wonder', *Grevillea* 'Clearview David' and *Correa* 'Dusky Bells' as ideal for coastal settings.

Right now, it is pink-flowered thrift, a British native, that paints the landscape of the garden and connects back to what is growing in the wild. In the coming months, different flowers will take their turn as stars. The pink daisies of *Erigeron glaucus* 'Sea Breeze' and *Aster alpinus* 'Happy End' follow the thrift, and after them, osteospermums and delospermums. In high summer, the ground-hugging succulent *Carpobrotus edulis* takes over. Tucked among the mounds are two tough grasses cut short to provide a bristly counterpart to the mounds of green: *Stipa tenuissima* and *Carex testacea*. The effect is a tapestry of plants that can survive anything the beach throws at them, and look good all the while.

"I wanted the garden to feel as if it was made from the beach itself, as if it had always been there," says Anthony. And although the garden was only completed in 2017, it very much feels as if his mission is accomplished. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

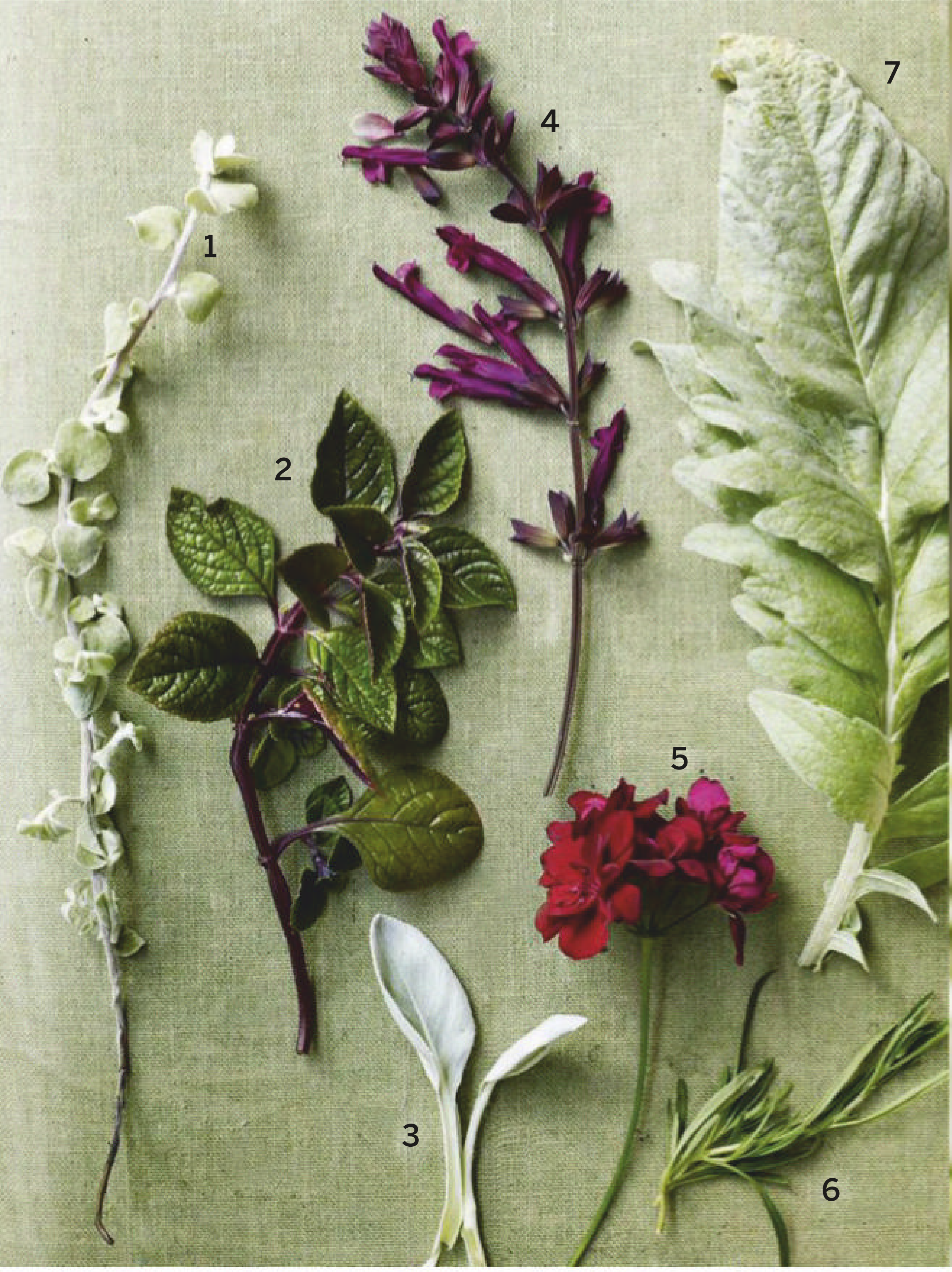
Read more about Anthony Paul's work at **anthonypaullandscapedesign.com**



Bursting with style

Head gardener Benjamin William Pope, celebrates the abundance of late spring with three stylish container combinations that are overflowing with flowers and foliage

WORDS **BENJAMIN WILLIAM POPE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREW MONTGOMERY**



CHANGING SPACES

Towards the end of spring the garden leaps forward with plants rapidly filling borders; it's an exciting time that I enjoy immensely. Predominately planted with tender perennials, this rustic French trough captures the luxurious sense of abundance, overflowing with foliage and flower that will continue through the year. Although restricted in colour, the sophisticated mix of eye-catching silver and deep rich red is a classic combination that has stood the test of time.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition:
This look is about contrast, using dark tones and bright highlights to create dramatic interest. Galvanised containers work well, naturally complementing the planting with their grey appearance. Easily found in junk shops, they come in various forms to suit different plant combinations. For this display I've used an old French trough with a weathered patina. Being large, it allows for a jumble of numerous plants and reduces the need for frequent watering in summer. Currently, the cardoon takes centre stage, but soon the silver senecio and helichrysum will take over, providing contrast for the ongoing salvia and geranium. Plectranthus and zaluzianskya enrich the mix, adding texture and important evening scent.

Cultivation and care
Late spring allows you to plant for the entire growing season, using small, rooted cuttings or starter plugs that will establish quickly given protection from frost and cold weather. Start them in a greenhouse then move outside, protecting with fleece, or wait until warmer weather arrives and plant in a sunny, protected site. Ensure your container has sufficient drainage holes, and cover with crocks to prevent them from becoming blocked. Plant into a peat-free, multi-purpose compost, arranging the key plants first, then planting the gaps with smaller fillers. Deadhead plants regularly, and trim back excessive growth. Throughout summer apply a liquid feed every two to three weeks to keep the plants at their best.

Plants

1 ***Helichrysum petiolare***
Evergreen trailing sub-shrub. 50cm. AGM*. RHS H3, USDA 9a-11†.
2 ***Plectranthus ciliatus***
Eye-catching sub-shrub. Needs winter protection. 50cm. RHS H2.
3 ***Senecio candidans* Angel Wings (= 'Senaw')** Striking tender perennial. 40cm. RHS H2.
4 ***Salvia* Love and Wishes (= 'Serendip6')** Needs winter protection. 1m. RHS H3.
5 ***Pelargonium* 'Tomcat'** Ivy-leaved pelargonium. 60cm. RHS H2.
6 ***Zaluzianskya capensis*** Delicate night phlox. 40cm. RHS H3.
7 ***Cynara cardunculus*** Silver-leaved cardoon. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H5.

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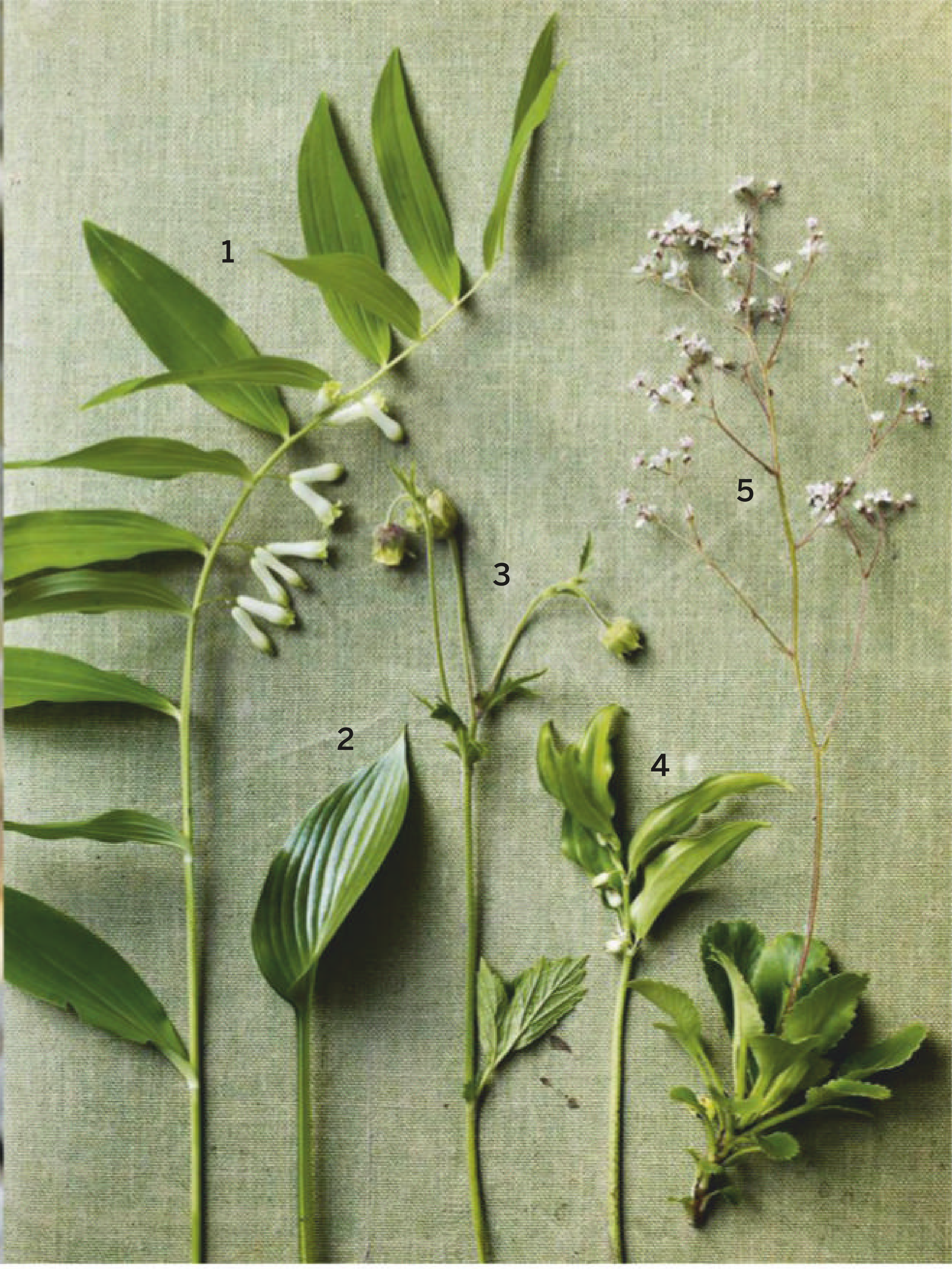
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



SPRING GREENS

Spring is all about the colour green, which for me symbolises a sense of vitality as plants march on with rapid, verdant growth. In quiet celebration, this Belfast sink calmly sits, holding the permanent display of hardy perennials that spill over its rim. With a charming woodland appeal, this gathering of intriguing foliage and form will last the entire season, enriching a shady corner of the garden with its spring highlights.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition

The sink's plain appearance is perfect for showing off the planting within. Its white colour adds to the display's cool ambience, enhancing the foliage and giving light to a partly shaded section of the garden. Elegantly arching from the back is the polygonatum, an important tall focal point of the display that is echoed by the smaller and more informal disporopsis in front. *Saxifraga* x *urbium* and *Geum* 'Lemon Drops' gently bubble alongside, creating a contrasting surface for the bold and ultra glossy leaves of the hosta. Finishing off the display are the numerous delicate spring flowers of these plants. In shades of white, cream, pale pink and soft yellow, they embellish the luxuriant planting while softening its appearance.

Cultivation and care

Choose a lightly shaded location for this display, being sure to raise the sink off the ground so it can drain freely. Cover the plughole with crocks or wire mesh before filling with a loam-based compost suitable for semi-permanent planting, and add some spent multi-purpose compost to enrich the soil and emulate woodland conditions. As with most containers, start planting from the back placing key plants first, and be sure to allow space around them for the addition of contrasting foliage. After planting, water and regularly feed with a dilute liquid fertiliser every three to four weeks. Deadhead after flowering and cut back at the end of the season, lifting and replanting the display every two to three years.

Plants

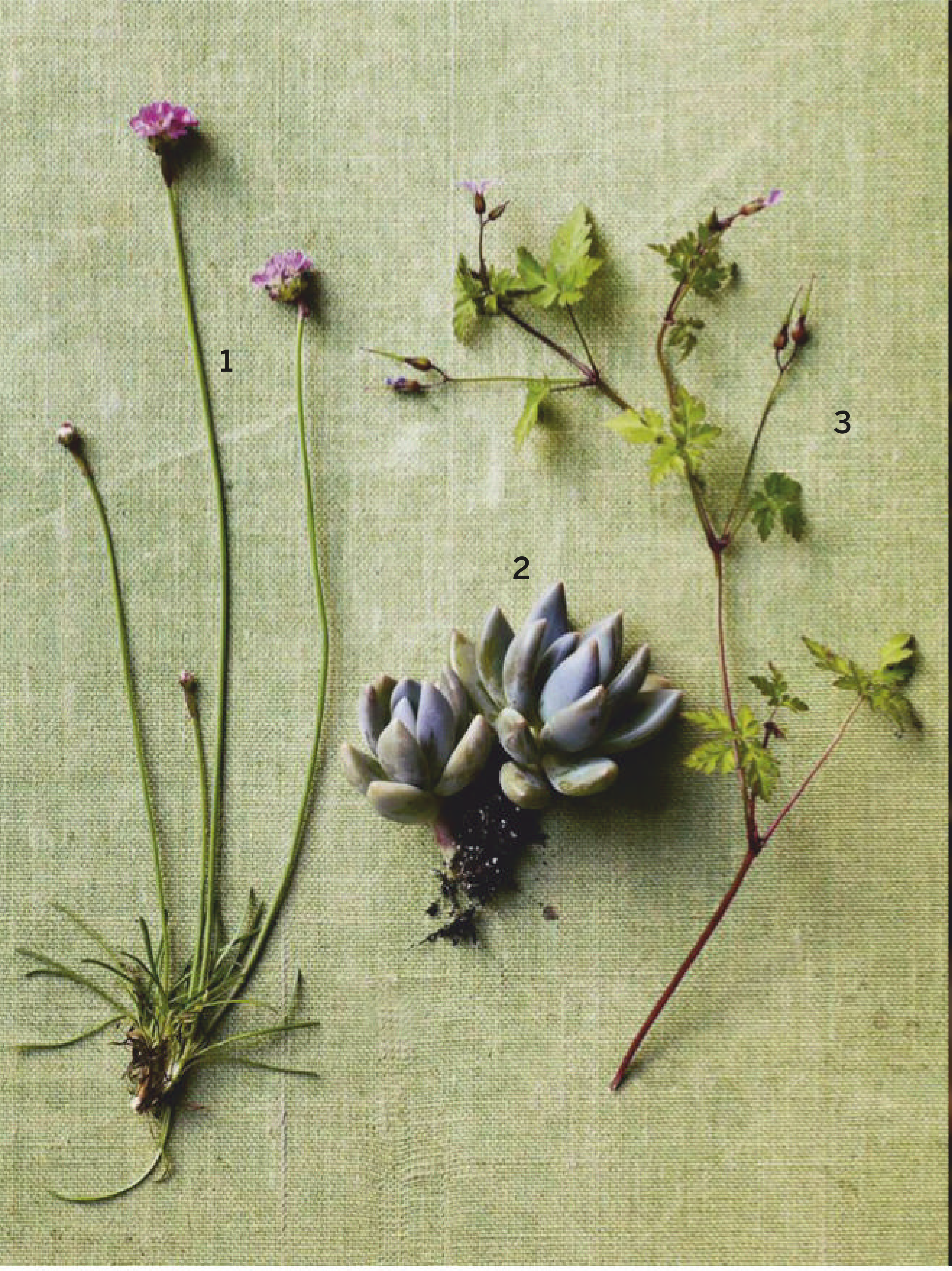
1 *Polygonatum* x *hybridum* Elegant rhizomatous perennial with erect, nodding stems and fresh-green leaves. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H7.

2 *Hosta* 'Devon Green' Clump-forming perennial with gorgeous upright leaves that are dark green. 45cm. AGM. RHS H7.

3 *Geum* 'Lemon Drops' Delightful woodland perennial forming a basal rosette of mid-green pinnately lobbed leaves. 35cm. RHS H7.

4 *Disporopsis pernyi* Slow-spreading, rhizomatous perennial with elliptic leaves. 50cm. RHS H3.

5 *Saxifraga* x *urbium* Old-fashioned and reliable evergreen perennial. 25cm. AGM. RHS H5.



CHARM IN THE CAN

Beauty can be found in the most unlikely places. Going through an old fire pile I stumbled upon some tin cans, scarred with flames and rusted by rain. Partly degraded, they held an unrefined charm and detail that I instantly fell for and wanted to use in the garden. The harsh appearance and metallic tones contrast greatly with the soft nature of the plants they contain, creating an appealing display that comments on how one person's rubbish can be another's treasure.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition
The joy of this arrangement is the dynamic nature in which it can be changed depending on season, location and personal preference. Restricting and repeating the plant varieties helps to unify the display, and the soft, grey tones and touches of burgundy work together in harmony with the tins' colour, while the bright pink adds important vibrancy. There are no rules on what plants you choose, but the size and insulative properties of the tins create relatively tough growing conditions, suiting alpines, succulents and many wildflowers. Collect used grocery tins of various sizes to allow for greater planting diversity and interesting compositions (I've sourced catering-sized tins from local restaurants).

Cultivation and care
Before burning the tins punch several drainage holes in the base, then place in a garden incinerator for about 20 minutes. Leave to cool and stand outside for a couple of weeks so the charred tins begin to rust creating the aged patina. For planting ideas, sunny areas create dry and warm conditions perfect for alpines and succulents, alternatively shady locations will suit woodland species. Choose potting media to suit plant choice and be mindful of watering requirements.

• For more container ideas, don't miss the *Gardens Illustrated Pots of Style* special edition, out now, priced £9.99. See page 136 for further details.

Plants

1 *Armeria maritima* Tough perennial with needle-like, dark-green leaves, and pom-pom-like clusters of small, pink flowers on thin upright stems. Any moderate to free-draining loam in full sun. 15cm. RHS H5.

2 x *Sedeveria* 'Blue Mist'
Interesting hybrid of *Echeveria* and *Sedum*. Glaucous foliage takes on purple and bronze tones if cold or stressed. Prefers a free-draining loam in full sun. 10cm. RHS H2.

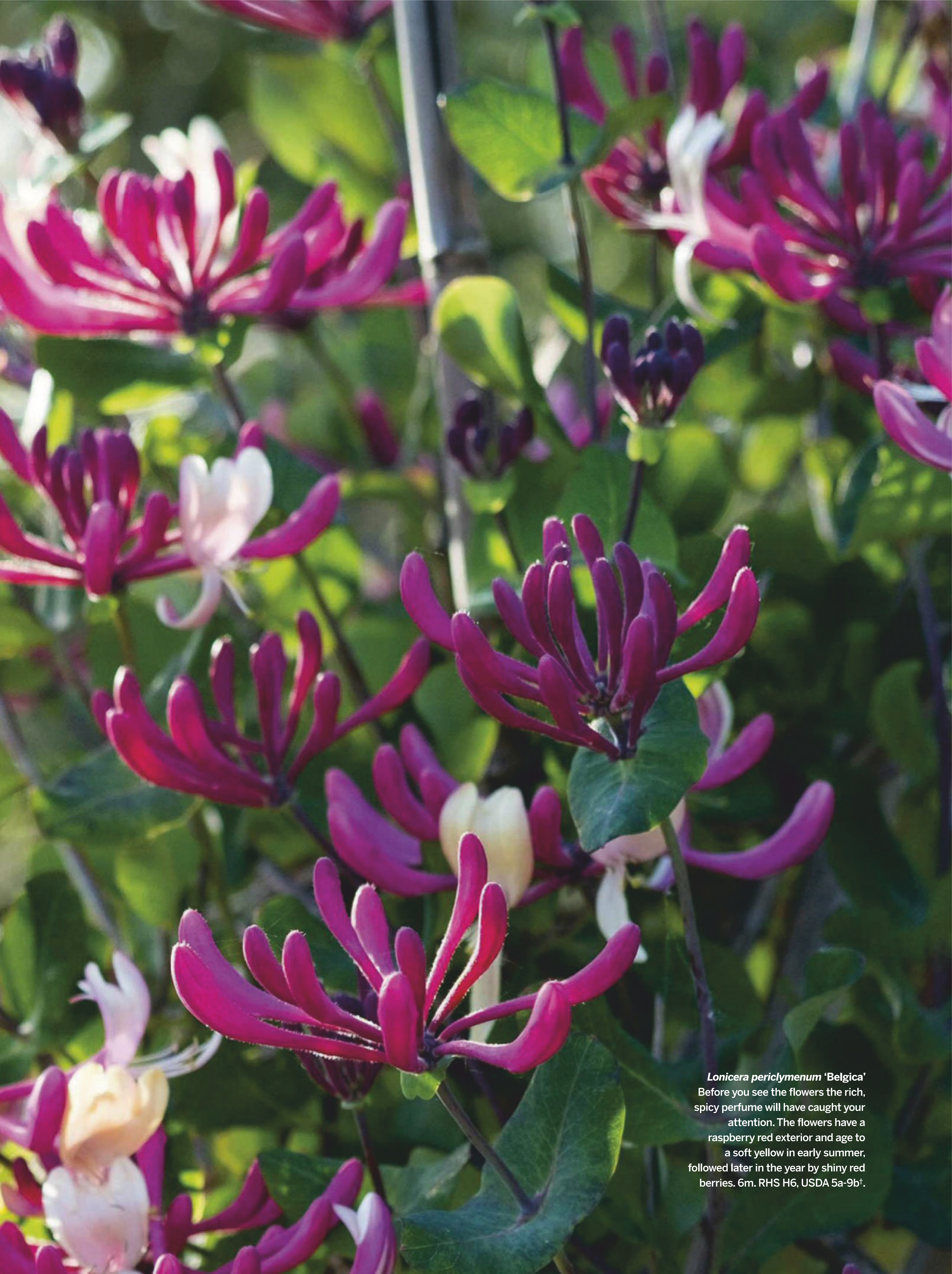
3 *Geranium robertianum* Thin reddish stems will gently scramble holding open sprays of tiny pink flowers. Will happily self-seed and is sometimes classed as a weed. 25cm. RHS H6.

LONICERA

With their colourful, nectar-rich flowers, climbing honeysuckles will clamber over walls and fences, filling early summer evenings with their fragrance

WORDS JOHN HOYLAND

MARK BOLTON / GAP PHOTOS



Lonicera periclymenum **'Belgica'**
Before you see the flowers the rich, spicy perfume will have caught your attention. The flowers have a raspberry red exterior and age to a soft yellow in early summer, followed later in the year by shiny red berries. 6m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b[†].

The native honeysuckle, or woodbine, is probably our most exuberant wildflower. In early summer, country lanes are saturated with its perfume, and its brightly coloured flowers are an unmistakable sight. According to Shakespeare, Titania slept under 'luscious woodbine', Milton described it as 'flaunting honeysuckle' and for Keats it occupied the 'summer thrones'. As well as poets the plant has inspired generations of children. As a child I remember the delight of sucking nectar out of the tips of the flowers. I hope that children are still doing that.

The genus to which our native honeysuckle belongs is *Lonicera*, which contains about 180 species, over half of which are found in China and the rest distributed around Europe, north America and northern India. Most of them are twining or climbing plants but the genus does contain a large number of shrubs. Although the flowers of the shrubby honeysuckles are often highly scented, they are paltry compared to the flamboyant flowers of the climbing species.

The flowerheads of the climbers are formed of clusters of tubular, trumpet-shaped flowers that are filled with a sweet nectar. So packed with nectar are the flowers that you occasionally see a small hole at the base of the flower where a bee has bitten through to reach the sweet reward. Most species are pollinated by moths, which explains why the perfume is strongest in the evening. In north America some species are pollinated by humming birds, which must be an extraordinary sight.

The British native climbing honeysuckle is *Lonicera periclymenum* and is found in hedgerows and woodland edges throughout Europe, from Sweden in the north down to the Mediterranean and across to Turkey. After flowering, the plant produces slightly sticky, bright-red berries. The scent from the flowers of *L. periclymenum* is the strongest of all the species and this is probably the reason so many cultivars have been selected.

Perhaps the most widely available cultivar was found growing in a Warwickshire hedge in the 1960s and named *L. periclymenum* 'Graham Thomas' after the horticulturist, who, at the time, was gardens adviser to the National Trust. The flowers are paler than those of the species, starting a soft white and fading to a creamy yellow. My own favourite cultivar is 'Sweet Sue', which has creamy-white flowers but is more compact than the species, growing to just 3m tall. It was found by Roy Lancaster while playing football with his sons on holiday in Sweden and named for his wife.

Of the Asian species, *L. japonica* and its cultivars have the most scented flowers. In mild winters the foliage is evergreen. It is very susceptible to mildew, which is less of a problem when grown in shade with plenty of air circulation. As well as producing lots of seedlings, it can spread by underground rhizomes, and in some parts of the USA, Australia and New Zealand it is an invasive weed. The most flamboyant honeysuckle flowers are usually found on the American species and hybrids. The flowers tend to be formed of clusters of red or orange trumpet-shaped tubes and although dazzlingly coloured they produce less perfume than other species.

In the garden, honeysuckles are often suggested as companions to roses but, unless you are growing them with a rambling rose that never gets pruned, I would avoid growing them with shrub roses and climbing roses because pruning the rose becomes impractical. Although some of the shorter species can be grown up obelisks or strong supports, most honeysuckles look best when allowed to clamber along walls or fences. Ensure that there is enough of a gap between the wall and the support for the honeysuckle to twine around. Wherever you plant them, make sure it is in a place where you can luxuriate in their perfume and maybe even reach out and pick the flowers to suck the nectar. □

• Author John Hoyland is a plantsman and garden writer. His recommendations for the best climbing honeysuckles can be found over the next five pages.

PLANT PROFILE

What A group of twining plants with brightly coloured, often highly scented, flowers. The genus *Lonicera* also includes shrubby forms. Common name woodbine.

Origins All are found in the northern hemisphere, mainly China, Europe, Asia and north America.

Season Summer flowering.

Size Mainly vigorous plants that will reach between 4m and 8m tall. In Northern Ireland, and in parts of the USA, Australia and New Zealand, *Lonicera japonica* is listed as an invasive species.

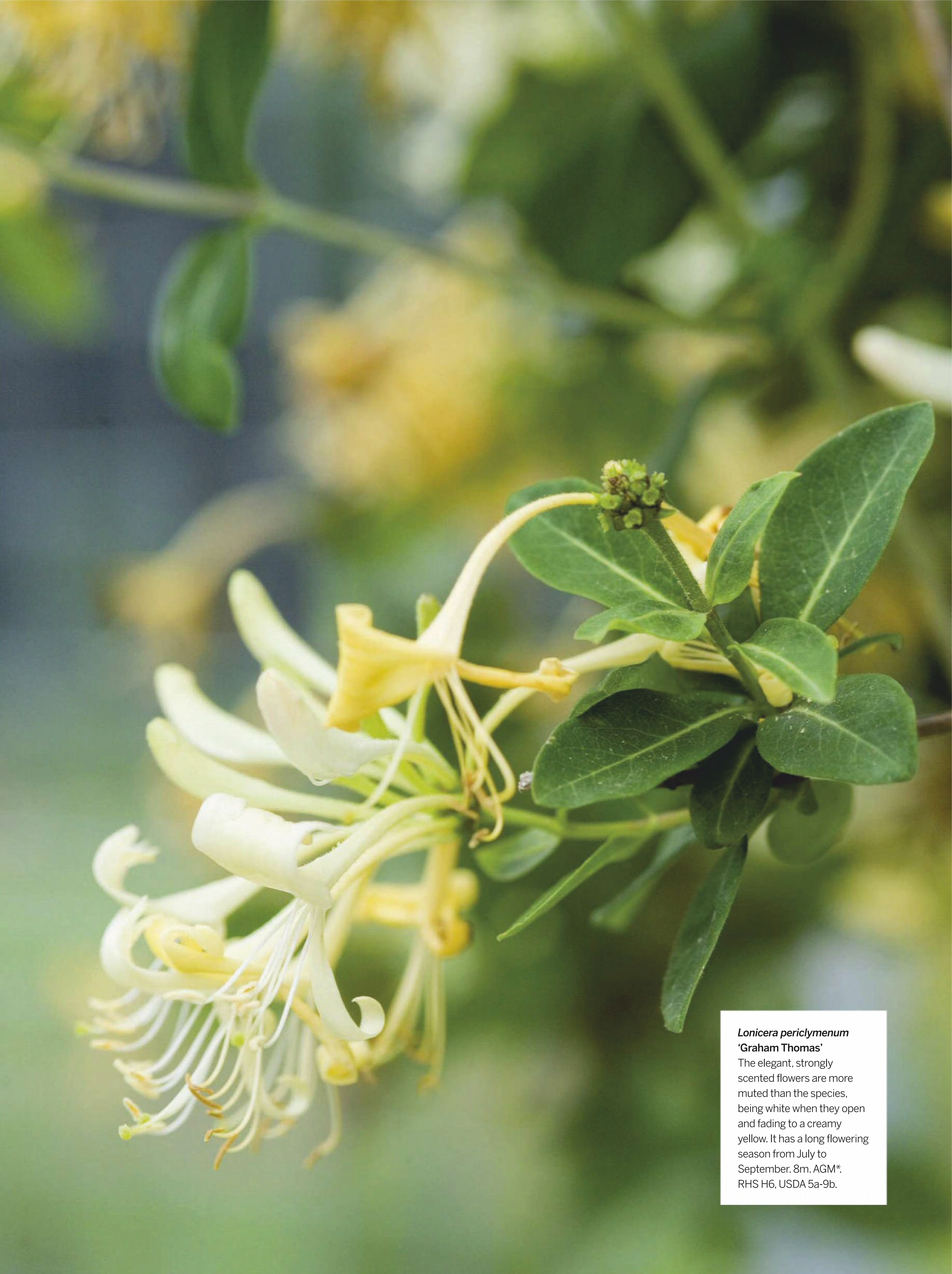
Conditions *Lonicera* fare best in a fertile, moist, free-draining soil in full sun or part shade.

Hardiness Most are hardy or very hardy.

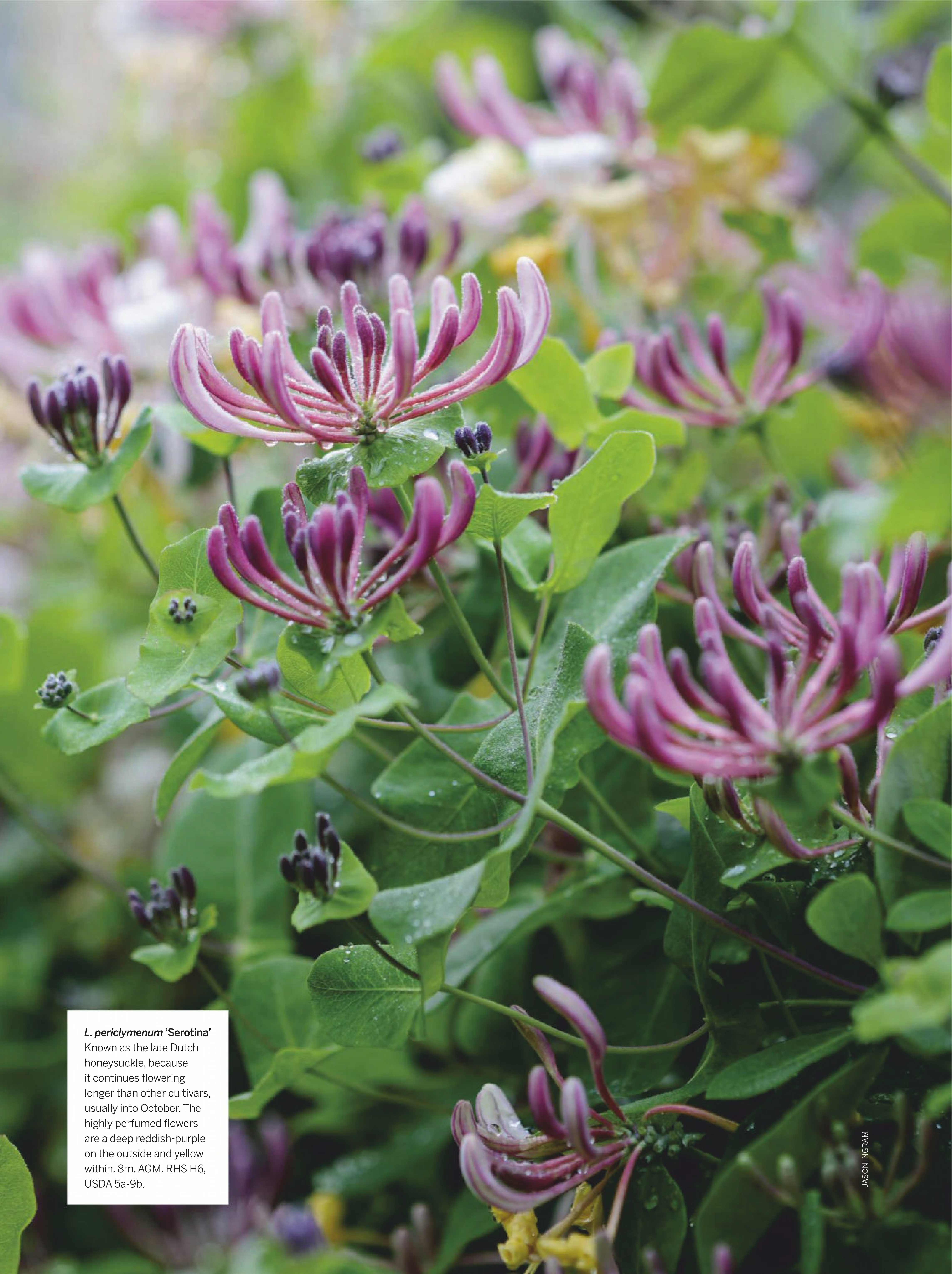
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Hardiness ratings given where available.

ANDREA JONES / GAP PHOTOS

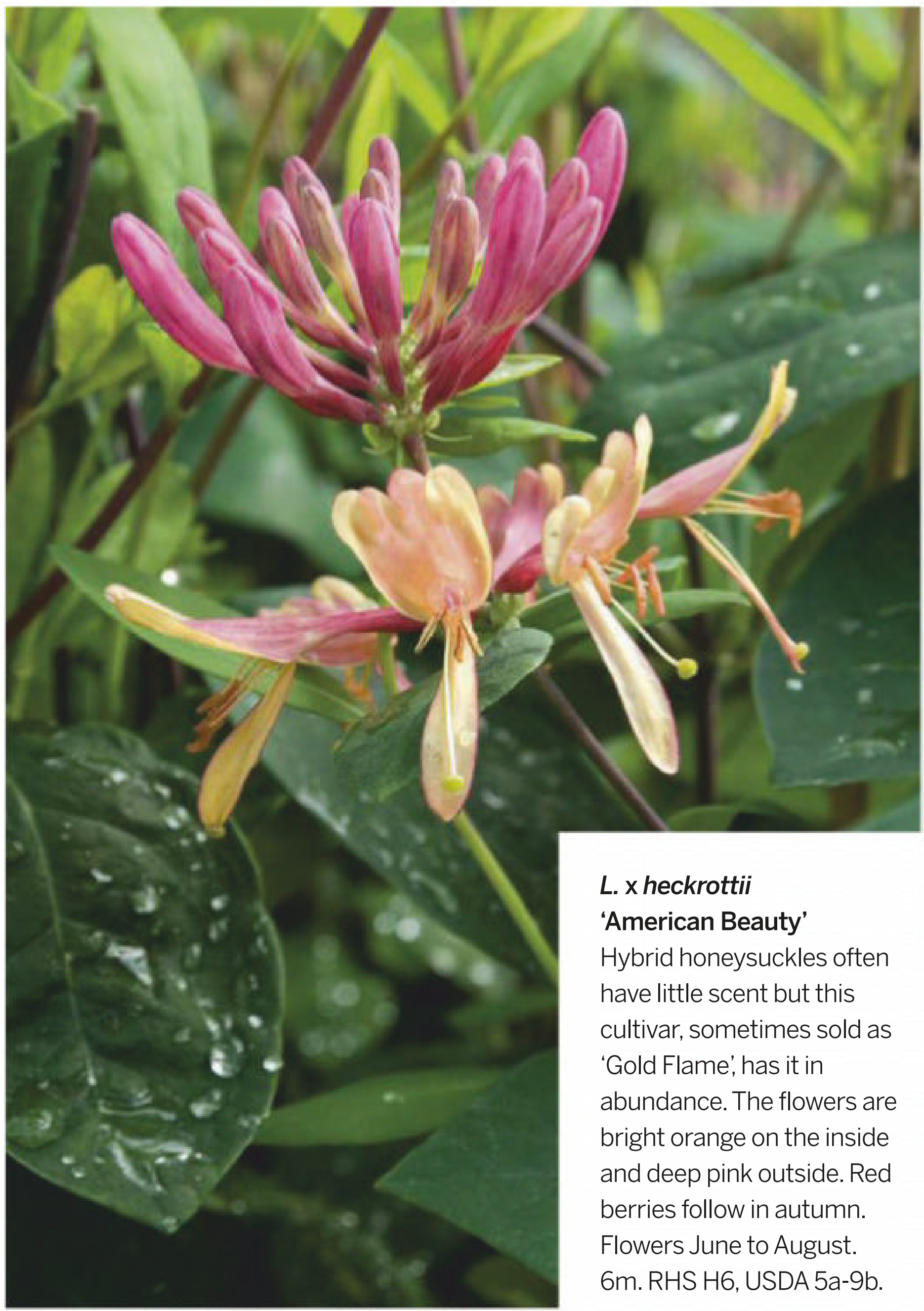


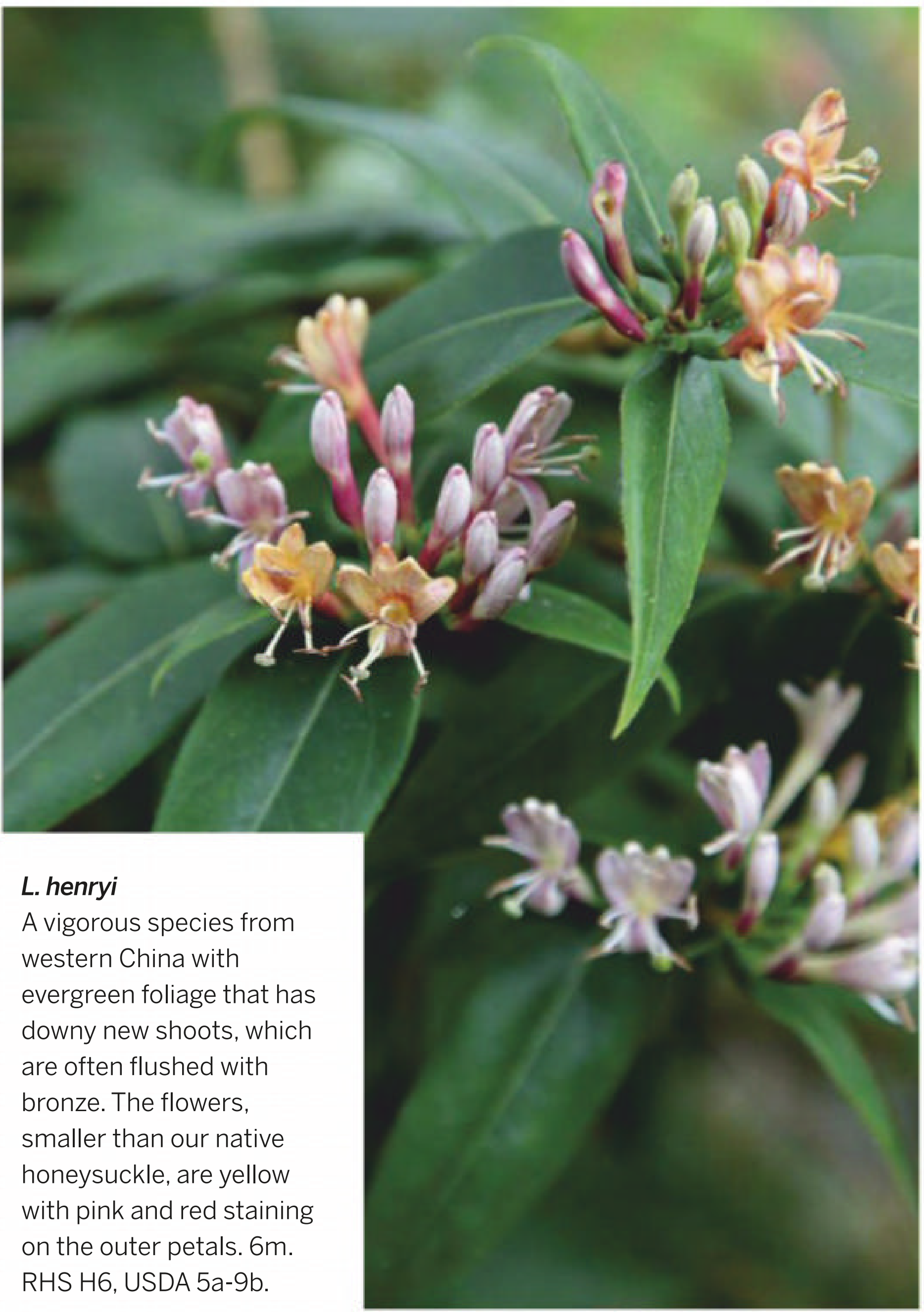
***Lonicera periclymenum* 'Graham Thomas'**
The elegant, strongly scented flowers are more muted than the species, being white when they open and fading to a creamy yellow. It has a long flowering season from July to September. 8m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.



***L. periclymenum* 'Serotina'**
Known as the late Dutch honeysuckle, because it continues flowering longer than other cultivars, usually into October. The highly perfumed flowers are a deep reddish-purple on the outside and yellow within. 8m. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

JASON INGRAM



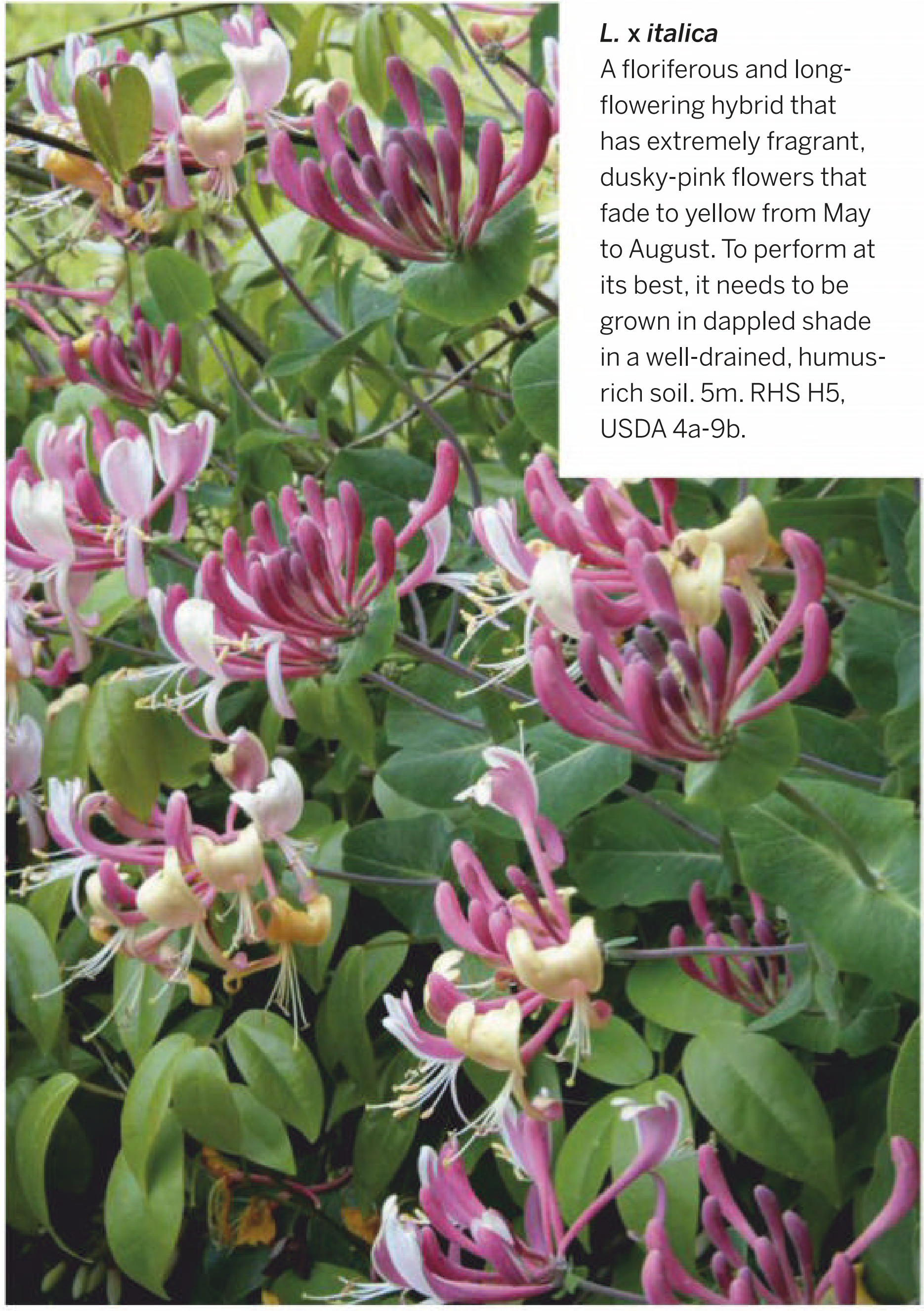


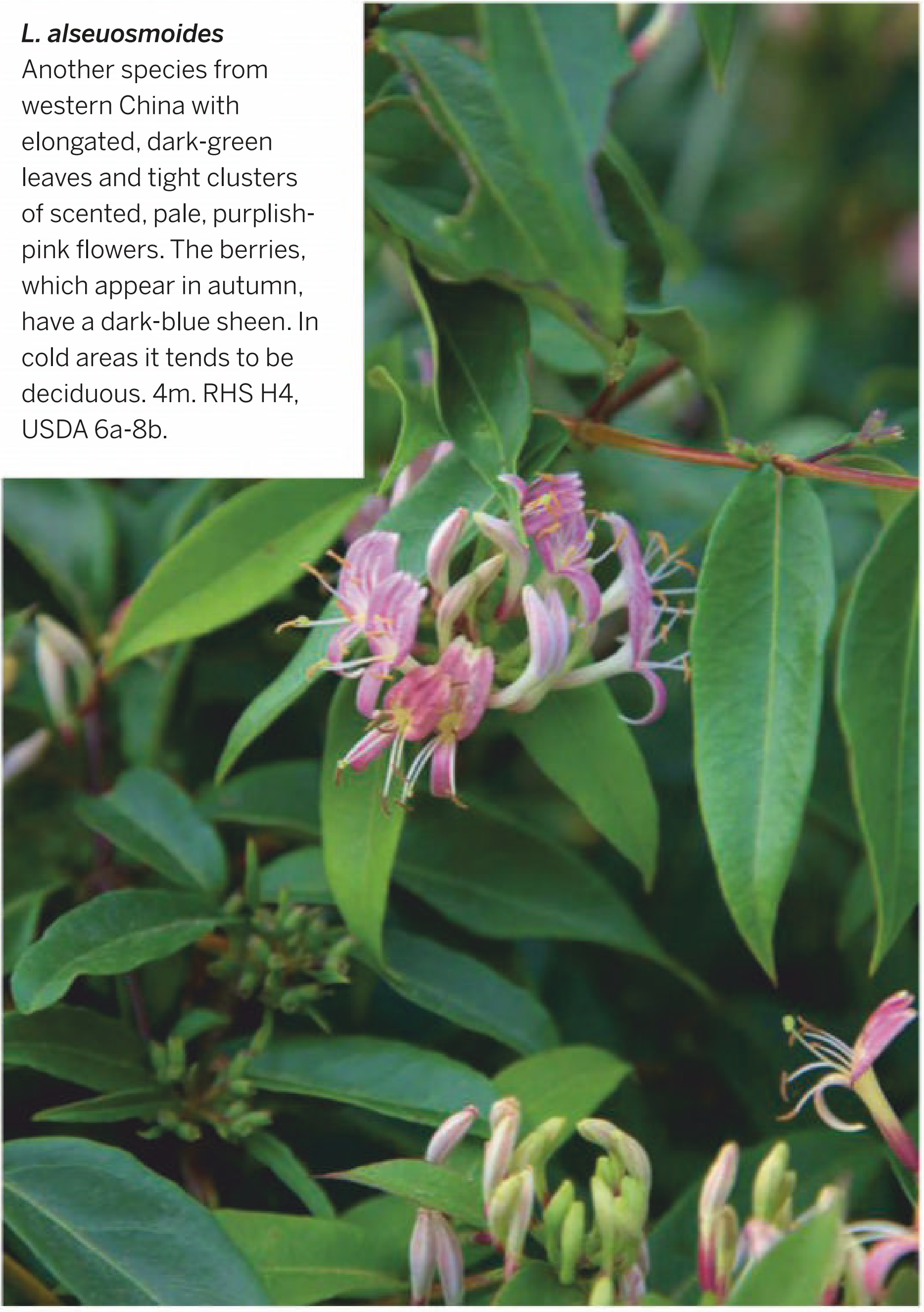
L.* x *heckrottii
'American Beauty'
Hybrid honeysuckles often have little scent but this cultivar, sometimes sold as 'Gold Flame', has it in abundance. The flowers are bright orange on the inside and deep pink outside. Red berries follow in autumn. Flowers June to August. 6m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

L. henryi
A vigorous species from western China with evergreen foliage that has downy new shoots, which are often flushed with bronze. The flowers, smaller than our native honeysuckle, are yellow with pink and red staining on the outer petals. 6m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

L.* x *italica
A floriferous and long-flowering hybrid that has extremely fragrant, dusky-pink flowers that fade to yellow from May to August. To perform at its best, it needs to be grown in dappled shade in a well-drained, humus-rich soil. 5m. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

L. alseuosmoides
Another species from western China with elongated, dark-green leaves and tight clusters of scented, pale, purplish-pink flowers. The berries, which appear in autumn, have a dark-blue sheen. In cold areas it tends to be deciduous. 4m. RHS H4, USDA 6a-8b.





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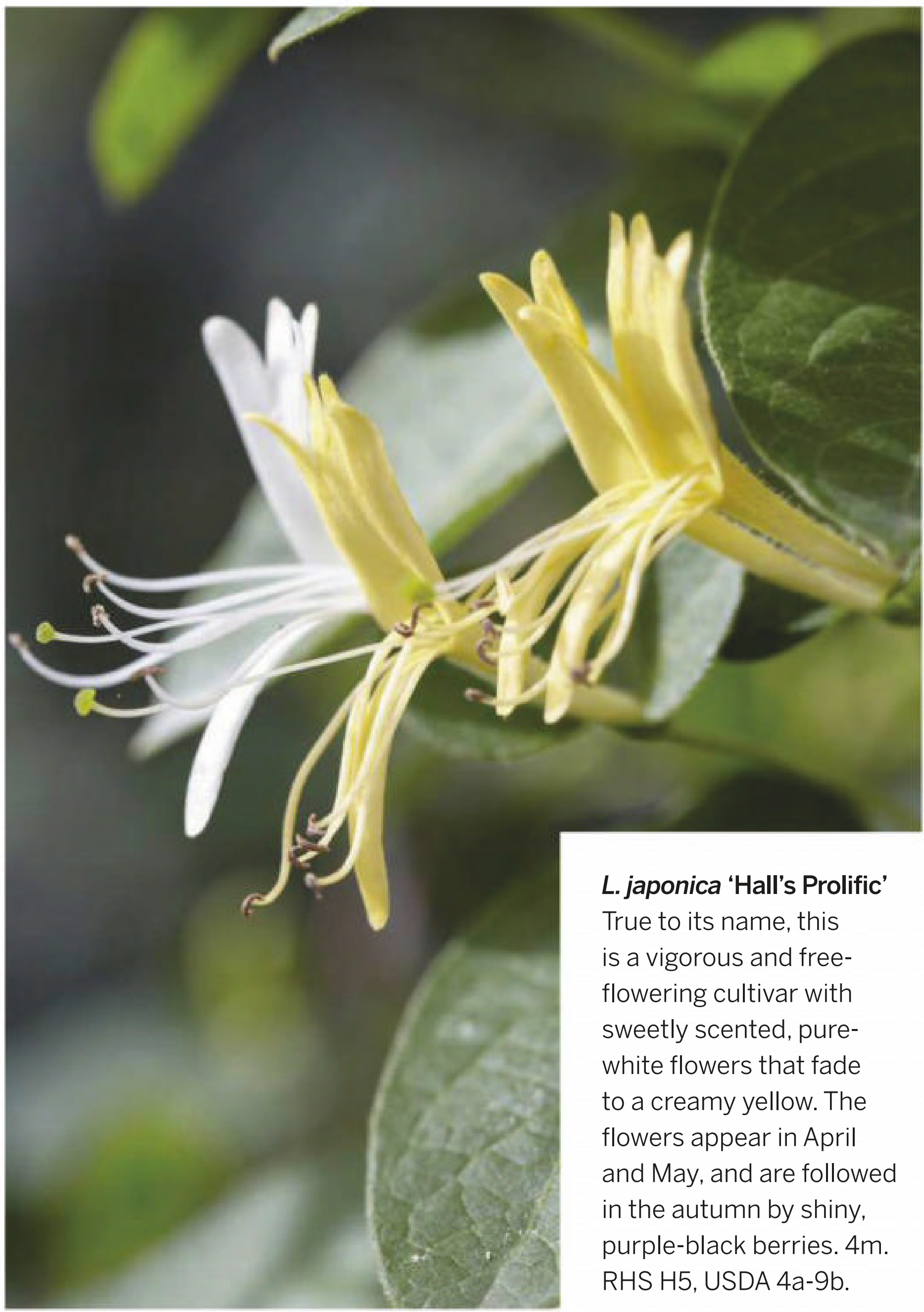
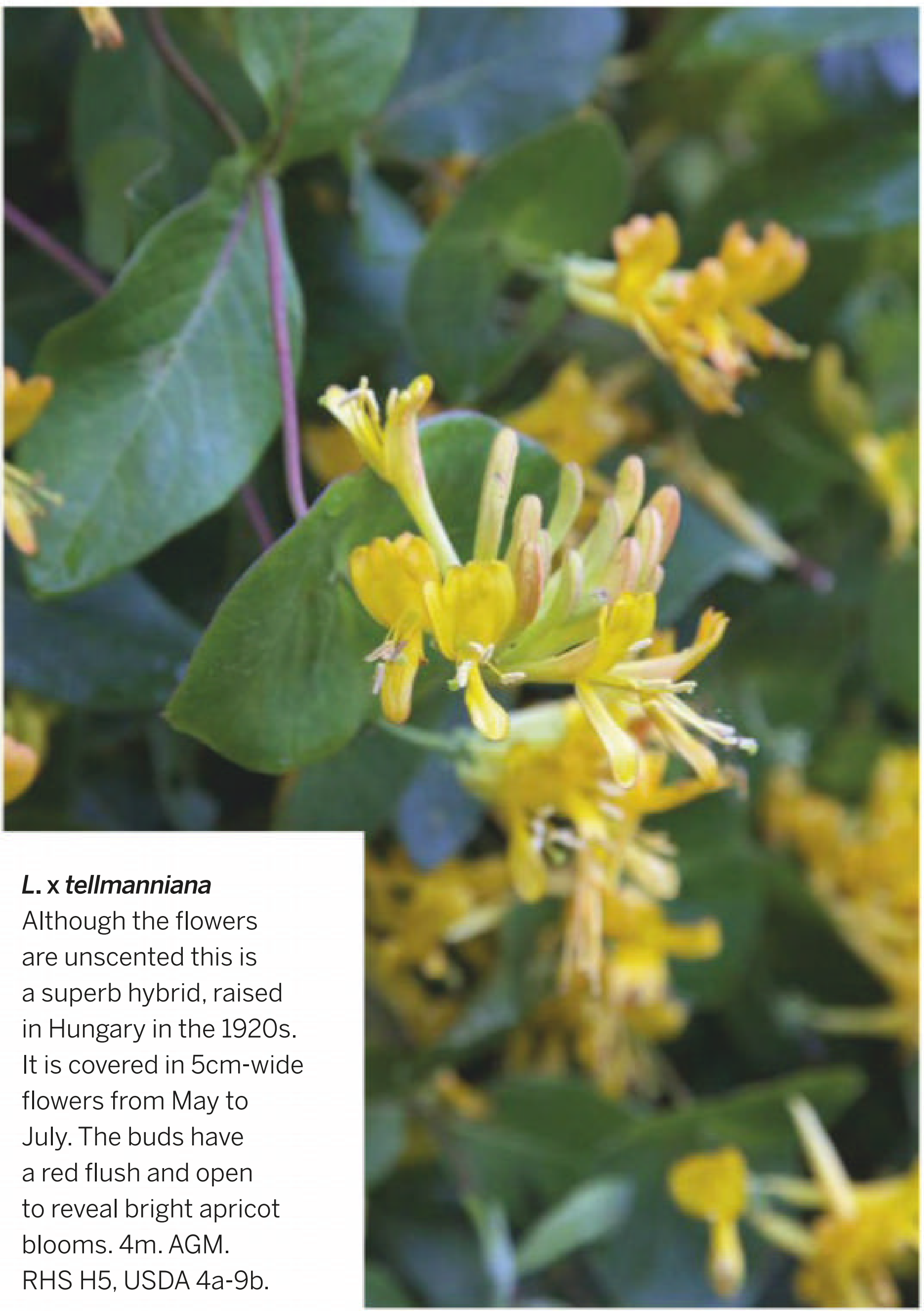
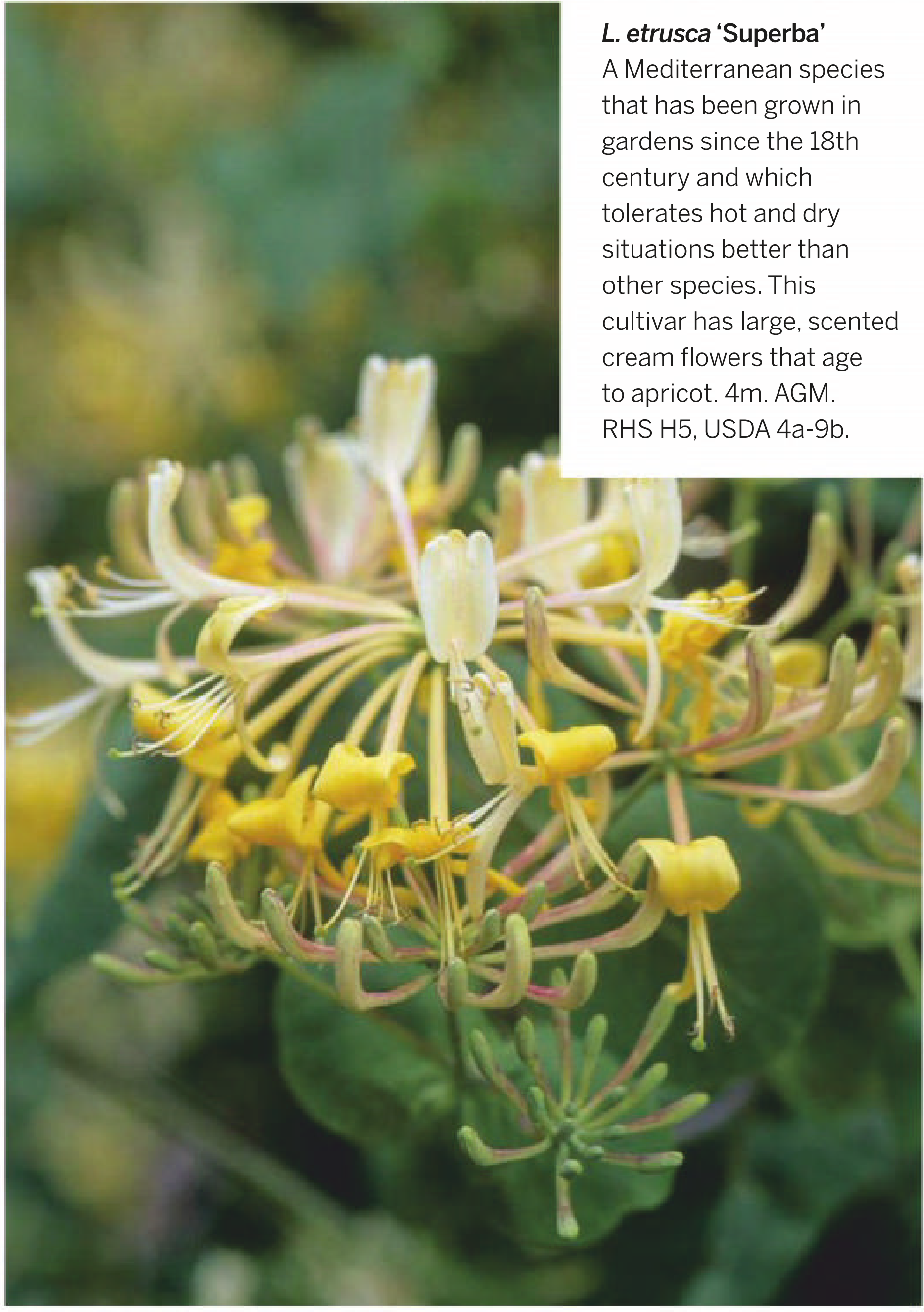


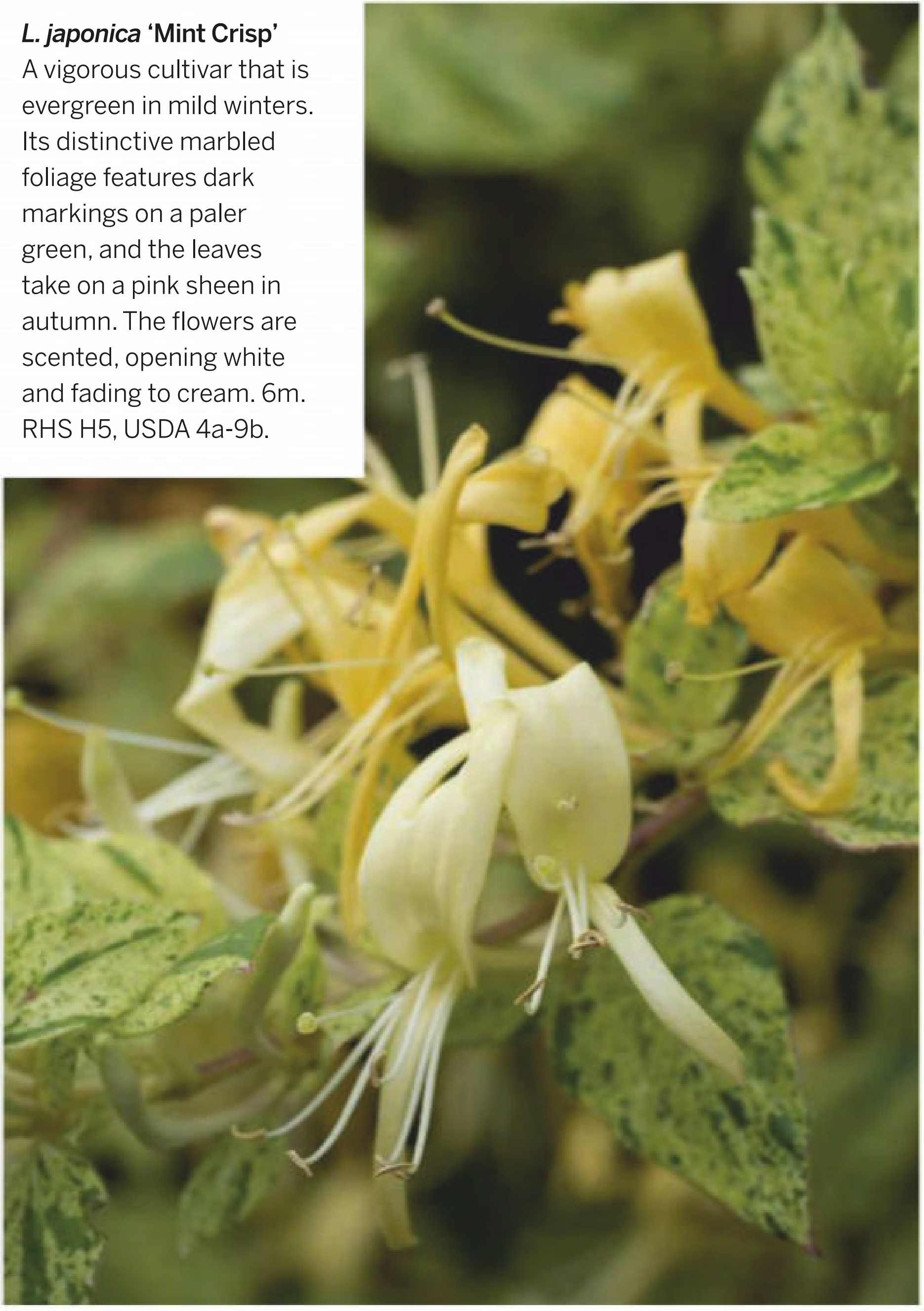
L. japonica **'Hall's Prolific'**
True to its name, this is a vigorous and free-flowering cultivar with sweetly scented, pure-white flowers that fade to a creamy yellow. The flowers appear in April and May, and are followed in the autumn by shiny, purple-black berries. 4m. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.



L. **x *tellmanniana***
Although the flowers are unscented this is a superb hybrid, raised in Hungary in the 1920s. It is covered in 5cm-wide flowers from May to July. The buds have a red flush and open to reveal bright apricot blooms. 4m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

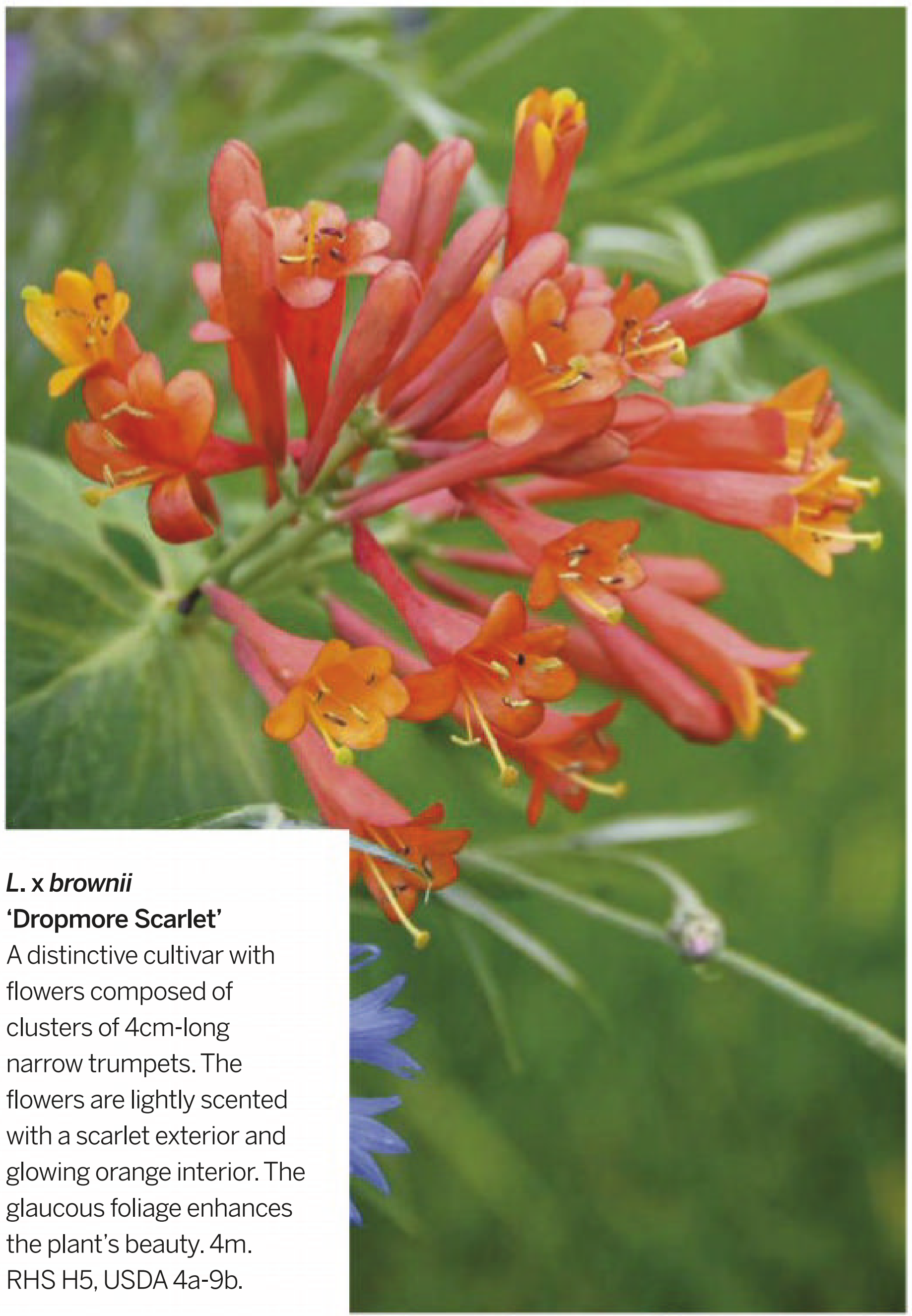


L. etrusca **'Superba'**
A Mediterranean species that has been grown in gardens since the 18th century and which tolerates hot and dry situations better than other species. This cultivar has large, scented cream flowers that age to apricot. 4m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.



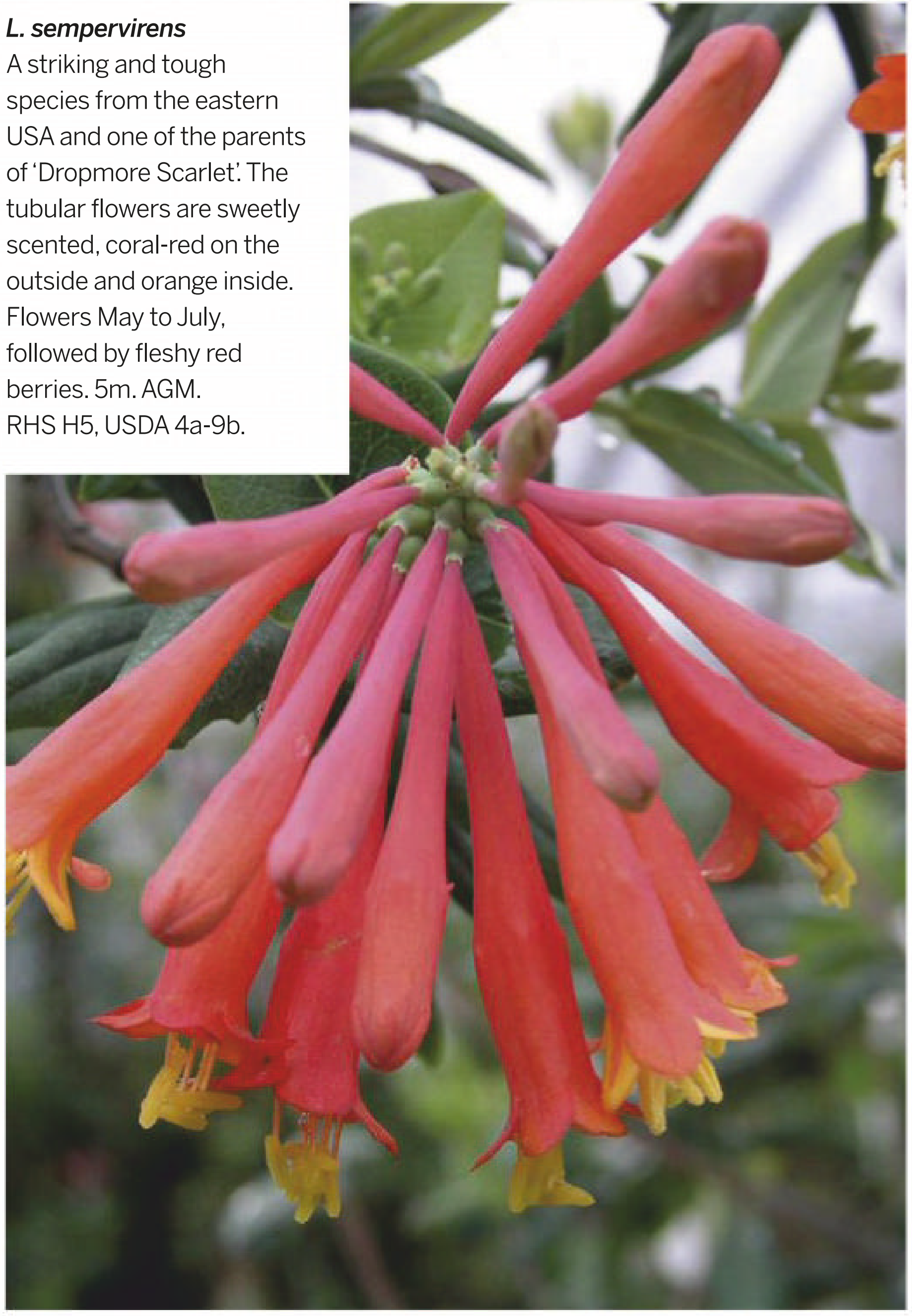
L. japonica **'Mint Crisp'**
A vigorous cultivar that is evergreen in mild winters. Its distinctive marbled foliage features dark markings on a paler green, and the leaves take on a pink sheen in autumn. The flowers are scented, opening white and fading to cream. 6m. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

VISIONS / GAP PHOTOS; MARTIN HUGHES-JONES / GAP PHOTOS; BIOSPHOTO / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS



L.* x *brownii
'Dropmore Scarlet'
A distinctive cultivar with flowers composed of clusters of 4cm-long narrow trumpets. The flowers are lightly scented with a scarlet exterior and glowing orange interior. The glaucous foliage enhances the plant's beauty. 4m. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

L. sempervirens
A striking and tough species from the eastern USA and one of the parents of 'Dropmore Scarlet'. The tubular flowers are sweetly scented, coral-red on the outside and orange inside. Flowers May to July, followed by fleshy red berries. 5m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.



BLICKWINKEL / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; GARDEN WORLD IMAGES

Cultivation

Honeysuckles are easy to grow and will thrive in most soils. You don't need the sunken lanes or high hedgerows that are home to wild specimens to succeed, but if you can mimic those conditions then your plant will be very happy. The roots and base of the climbers prefer cool conditions, sheltered from the heat of the sun with a nearby wall, fence, obelisk or other structure that the plant can clamber up into the sunshine. Honeysuckles are attractive to aphids and plants grown in direct sunlight seem to be particularly susceptible, so try and grow your honeysuckle in a slightly shaded place. A west-facing wall or fence is ideal.

Pruning

The fate of too many honeysuckles is to become a dense mass of tangled, woody stems. This happens when plants have been left unattended and unpruned. The best way to deal with this is to cut the whole plant down to about 70cm from the ground and remove any dead stems back to soil level. Tie the new stems into wires, or whatever else is supporting the climber. You will probably lose the following summer's flowers but it will be worth it to have a neat, healthy plant.

Many forms of honeysuckle, including *Lonicera periclymenum* and its cultivars, flower on stems that have grown the previous year. In general, they flower early in the season. These should be pruned in mid to late summer, after the plant has finished flowering. As always when pruning use clean secateurs with a sharp blade. First, cut away any diseased, damaged or dead stems. Then cut back stems that have flowered by about one third. Stems at the top of the plant often become intertwined and tangled and these can be cut back to keep the honeysuckle in the space (more or less) where you want it to grow. Honeysuckles are not climbers that can be neatly trained so some unruly growth is inevitable (and is part of the plant's charm). Other forms that require the same treatment are *Lonicera* x *tellmanniana* and *Lonicera etrusca* 'Superba'.

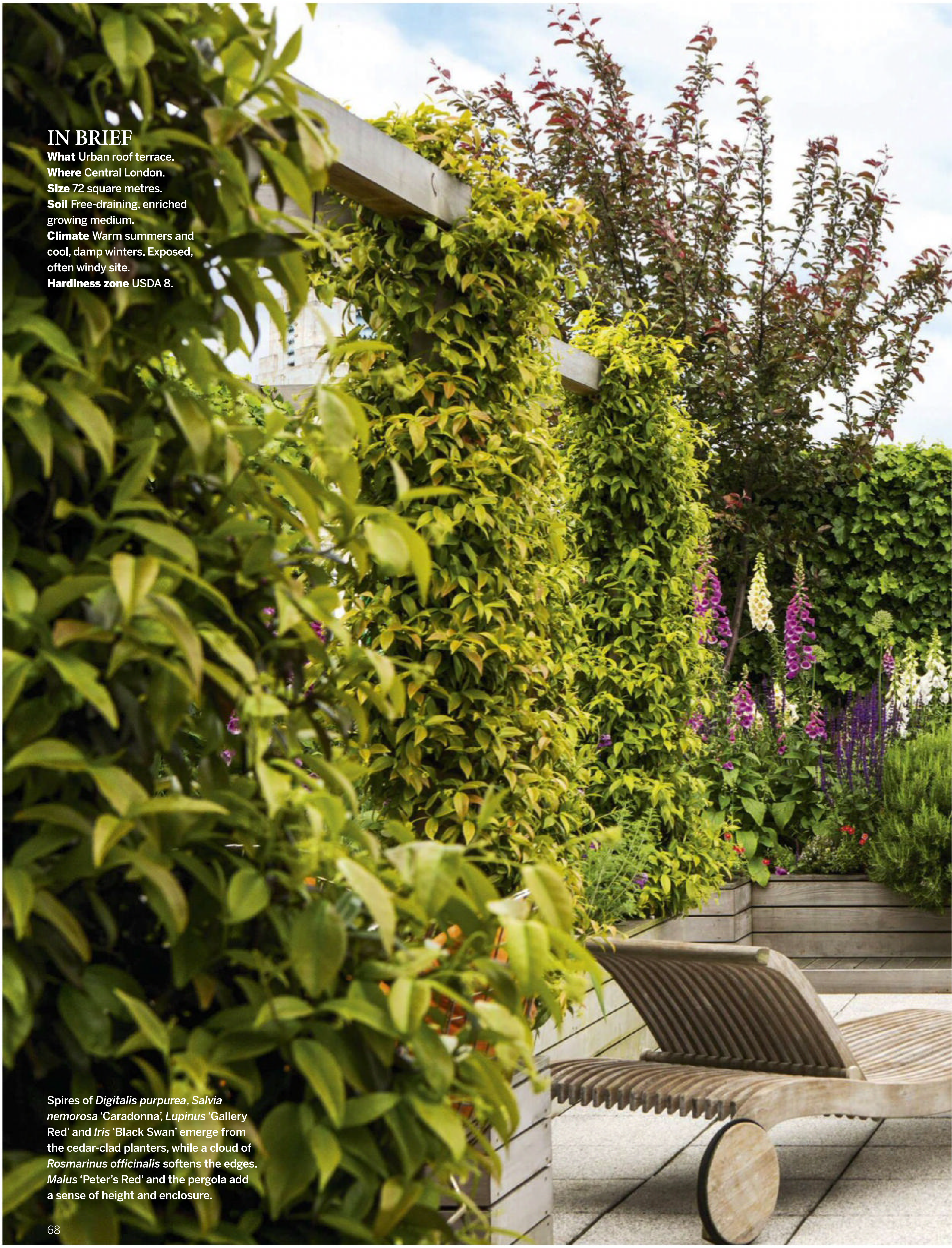
Later-flowering species, such as *Lonicera japonica*, *Lonicera sempervirens*, *Lonicera* x *brownii* and *Lonicera henryi*, do not need regular pruning. In the spring, remove congested or dead shoots and remove any long shoots that are creeping beyond the space you have available for the plant to clamber into.

Sometimes plants become bare at the bottom, with all the growth and flowers at the top. If this happens cut out a couple of the stems to about 60cm from the ground. This will encourage new growth lower down, while the remaining stems support growth higher up.

Where to buy

- **Ashridge Trees***
  ashridgetrees.co.uk
- **Burncoose Nurseries**
  Gwennap, Redruth,
  Cornwall TR16 6BJ.
  Tel 01209 860316,
  burncoose.co.uk
- **Floyds Climbers & Clematis***
  Tel 01249 823200,
  floydsclimbers.co.uk
- **Groves Nurseries and Garden Centre**
  West Bay Road, Bridport,
  Dorset DT6 4BA.
  Tel 01308 422654,
  grovesnurseries.co.uk
- **Kelways Plants**
  Picts Hill, Langport,
  Somerset TA10 9EZ.
  Tel 01458 253352,
  kelways.co.uk
- **Larch Cottage Nurseries**
  Melkinthorpe, Penrith,
  Cumbria CA10 2DR.
  Tel 01931 712404,
  larchcottage.co.uk
- **Peter Beales Roses**
  London Road, Attleborough,
  Norfolk NR17 1AY.
  Tel 01953 454707,
  classicroses.co.uk

*Mail order only



IN BRIEF

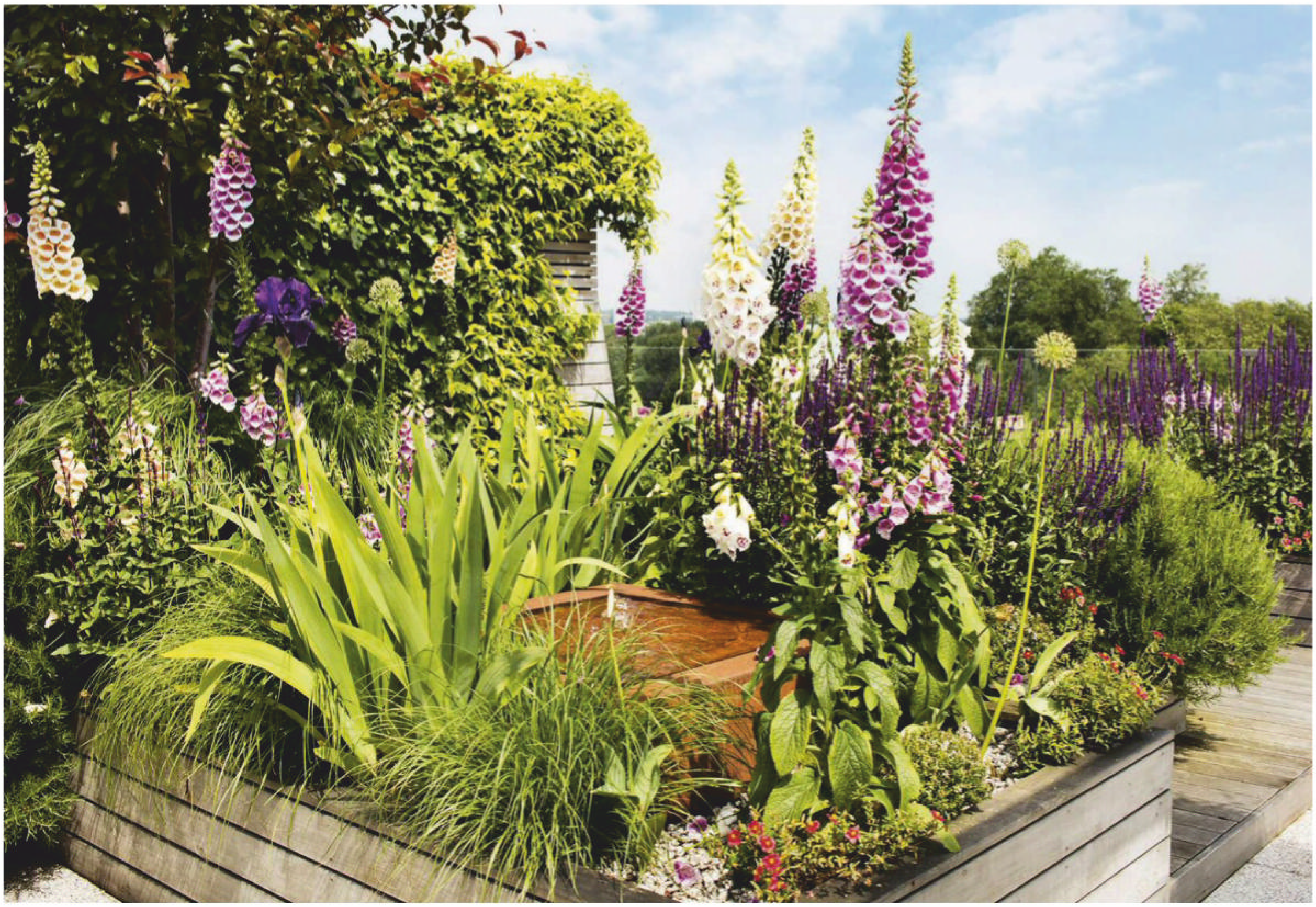
What Urban roof terrace.
Where Central London.
Size 72 square metres.
Soil Free-draining, enriched growing medium.
Climate Warm summers and cool, damp winters. Exposed, often windy site.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

Spires of *Digitalis purpurea*, *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', *Lupinus* 'Gallery Red' and *Iris* 'Black Swan' emerge from the cedar-clad planters, while a cloud of *Rosmarinus officinalis* softens the edges. *Malus* 'Peter's Red' and the pergola add a sense of height and enclosure.

A whole new level

Designer Adolfo Harrison achieves a lush and verdant look with a careful choice of drought-tolerant plants in this rooftop garden in central London

WORDS NATASHA GOODFELLOW PHOTOGRAPHS MISCHA HALLER



Just around the corner from one of London's busiest railway stations and overlooking one of its Royal Parks is a garden of unexpected abundance. Foxgloves and salvias shoot from the borders like fireworks, clouds of rosemary grow, and climbers such as *Trachelospermum jasminoides* and *Hedera* romp over the pergola.

That all this – plus two distinct seating areas, a large dining area and a water feature – has been achieved in a space measuring just 16x4.5m is astonishing, but not nearly so astonishing as the fact that this is a roof garden, planted entirely in containers seven floors up. Its success is down to designer Adolfo Harrison and his understanding of the unfavourable conditions that roof terraces so frequently present. "They sound wonderful, but they can often be exposed and unforgiving environments," he says. "The view here is spectacular, but in its original state, no one would have wanted to spend too much time here."

When Adolfo first saw the space in 2012, it was not much more than a windswept area of granite tiles, bordered by a glass-and-steel balustrade and dotted with features including a lift shaft, the air-conditioning plant and a skylight of the owners' flat below. Planning constraints demanded that nothing be permanently fixed to the roof, and weight restrictions and the need for privacy also had to be taken into account. But rather than seeing these issues as problems, Adolfo saw them as opportunities for design solutions that have helped mould the space.

His design, the layout of which mirrors a geometric pattern found in the adjacent brick wall, cleverly addresses all these things, using *Hedera* screens to mask unsightly structures and to act as windbreaks. Cedar boards are used to similar effect, also forming the in-built beds and seating that define the different areas, including a secluded corner that provides the perfect spot to watch the setting sun as it hits the glass

Above Clumps of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' echo the form of the rosemary, while the seedheads of *Allium* 'Mont Blanc' contrast with the spires of the foxgloves. The Corten steel water feature is from Adezz. The wall beyond, clad in *Hedera* and *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, hides the air conditioning plant for the building.

Facing page This balcony runs the length of the flat on the floor below the roof terrace. Although it is just 1.75m wide, Adolfo has transformed it into a wave of flowers, with plantings of *Luzula nivea*, *Polygonatum* x *hybridum* and *Epimedium* x *perralchicum* 'Fröhnleiten' to foreground the view. At each end, a porthole-like mirror set amid trained *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* and *Trachelospermum jasminoides* echoes the maritime feeling of the glass-and-steel balustrade.

of the City's skyscrapers and seems to set them alight. The pergola and, to some extent, the fine *Malus* 'Peter's Red', give parts of the space a sense of enclosure, which, by contrast, makes the pull towards the view all the more powerful.

So that this view is not obscured, planting has, in the main, been kept deliberately low, although Adolfo concedes there have been changes over the years. "As a designer, I wanted to make sure that the space was manageable and that the plants would thrive, so the plants I put in were classic drought-tolerant species – salvias, nepetas, perovskias – all a very far cry from shade-loving foxgloves," he laughs. These were a more recent request from the owners to their gardener, Mark Poswillo, former head gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden, the oldest botanic garden in London. Mark comes once every two weeks to maintain the space, and, thanks to his talent, and the favourable conditions Adolfo has created, the foxgloves, along with the other plants, are thriving.

For Adolfo, maturity and longevity are important in a garden. "Some people think that a commissioned garden should look its best the day it is installed or shortly afterwards, but actually, it's about making it so it can get better with age," he says. "To my delight, that is exactly what has happened here." ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Adolfo's work at **adolfoharrison.com**

Planting a roof garden

- **According to Adolfo, roof gardening is as hard as gardening gets**. "You're planting in containers, the soil doesn't have its own ecosystem, and pests and diseases can take hold pretty quickly. Lack of shade can also be an issue, but the real thing to worry about is the wind, which causes plants to dry out."
- **Install an irrigation system, which is cheaper than the manpower** or time needed for hand-watering. This is less wasteful, and provides plants with the exact amount of moisture they need. Look out for drought-tolerant plants with small, hairy or resinous leaves that are better at coping with sun and wind than fleshy, large-leaved plants.
- **Use containers that are at least 40cm deep**, and a fertile, free-draining growing medium, replaced every five years. A base of hydroleca will help with drainage and a 5cm top layer of mulch will prevent moisture loss.
- **Within these parameters, gardeners should still think big**. "Try to create the illusion that you're in a garden by layering plants: go for height as well as mid-sized plants, alongside those that will spill over the container edge."

HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

MICHAEL MARRIOTT

David Austin's chief rosarian, and the font of all knowledge on English roses, on his early fascination with plants and growing roses in sub zero temperatures

WORDS CLAIRE MASSET PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Michael Marriott never much liked roses. Then one day, he had an epiphany. "I was watching a TV programme with David Austin and he was introducing this rose – Wise Portia. I thought it was just the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen."

To Michael's generation, roses mostly meant hybrid teas, with large, angular flowers and stiff, upright stems. Michael hated everything about them. But then *Rosa* Wise Portia (= 'Ausport') – with "curved blooms, overlapping petals and a wonderful shade of light purple"– came along and took his breath away.

It's lucky it did, as a few years later Michael started working for David Austin. "I joined as nursery manager in 1985, when the business employed a dozen or so people." As the company grew, Michael's role expanded. "I started advising people, designing rose gardens and travelling all over the world." His current title of technical manager belies his expertise. Michael is the company's chief rosarian: the font of all knowledge on English roses.

> A ROSE CAN FLOWER FOREVER, AND HAVE A FANTASTIC FRAGRANCE, BUT STILL BE UGLY. YOU NEED THESE, PLUS CHARM

Despite coming to roses relatively late, gardening has always been in Michael's blood. He grew up in northern France where his parents had a large garden. The family moved to Warwickshire when he was a teenager. "My father started running a poultry farm. It took absolutely all of his time, so I ended up looking after the garden."

Michael was fascinated by plants, particularly perennials, fruit and veg. "At the time horticulture was seen as a great hobby but not a source of employment, so I decided to study agricultural botany." In the middle of his studies at Reading University, he took a year off to work with agronomists on a rice, sugar cane and citrus estate in Swaziland.

Straight after gaining his degree, he got a job as head gardener at Ardanaiseig, a private estate on the west coast of Scotland. But after just a year the chance to work in the tropics proved too tempting and Michael spent the next five years working in Borneo, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Shortly after returning to the UK, he joined David Austin as nursery manager.

Nowadays Michael spends his time advising clients on rose culture, designing gardens and lecturing. He has created rose gardens all over the world, in wildly varied climates. There is, for instance, the large David Austin garden in Osaka, Japan. "It's about one hectare – roughly the same size as the one at our nursery in Albrighton. My biggest regret is that I've never seen it in full flower."

Michael's latest challenge is to design a rose garden in Siberia, where temperatures go down to -30°C. Can roses survive such conditions? "If you know how to protect them, it is possible. I have various contacts scattered round the world and they report back to me about which roses do well in their climate. There's a chap who lives in Cleveland, Ohio, and he doesn't protect his roses at all. It gets down to -20°C there."

Although Michael isn't directly involved in the David Austin rose breeding programme, he is often asked about new cultivars. "People say to me: 'What colour are you going to introduce this year?' And I say: It doesn't matter. We're just going to introduce three or four lovely roses. The greatest basis for success with David Austin roses is beauty. You can have a rose that flowers forever, has the most beautiful individual flower and fantastic fragrance, but is actually ugly. You need all of these, plus charm. A lot of people's definition of charm is different, but luckily many agree with what was David's assessment of it."

Another question he is always asked is: What do you do about rose replant disease? "This comes from people growing roses without mulching. There's no specific causative agent except that the soil is biologically dead. If you enrich your soil regularly, you can just dig up your old rose, bung in lots of organic matter and there you are. I'm passionate about looking after the soil. It's the most important thing."

Michael's calm demeanour hides an active mind and body. When we met he had just returned from lecturing in Bermuda and he was heading off to Belgium for consultancy work. He and his partner Rosie, who is equally passionate about plants and works as a horticultural producer for television, are developing their garden in Shropshire. "It's a his-and-hers approach. We each have our own area. We also have two allotments and an orchard." Michael scythes his own meadow, hand-cuts the hedges and uses a push mower. "I'm a great believer in using hand-tools. I try to stay as physically active as possible. That's why gardening is such a wonderful thing to do. It exercises the brain and the body." Having just turned 67, Michael – with his boyish smile and a sparkle in his eye – isn't anywhere close to slowing down. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

David Austin Roses, Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV7 3HB.
Tel 0800 111 4699, davidaustinroses.co.uk

• Michael is leading an exclusive *Gardens Illustrated* tour of rose gardens in southern England (11-14 June 2019). For more information visit **gardensillustrated.com/events**

A FAMILY AFFAIR

The third generation in a plant-hunting dynasty, nurseryman and rhododendron expert Ken Cox heads up the Glendoick Gardens in Scotland

WORDS **JOHN HOYLAND** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**

Glendoick House sits on the southern slopes of the Sidlaw Hills in Perthshire, Scotland. As well as rhododendrons collected by three generations of the Cox family, the gardens are filled with *Primula*, *Meconopsis*, *Kalmia* and other woodland plants.

At the end of the First World War a chance encounter between a young Scotsman and renowned plant hunter Reginald Farrer sparked the founding of a dynasty of plant collectors. The young man, Euan Cox, joined Farrer on an expedition to Burma (now Mayanmar), a journey that would prove to be the great man's last. Cox was left to catalogue and distribute the plants that had been found, including new *Rhododendron* species, kindling a passion for the genus that he passed on to his son and grandson.

Euan Cox began planting the family garden at Glendoick and developed it as a woodland garden during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1953 his son Peter established a rhododendron nursery on the site and began, with British and Chinese experts, to explore the genus's native habitats and to collect seeds of wild species. In the 1990s Peter was joined by his son, Ken, on plant-hunting trips to Tibet and the Himalayas that resulted in *Primula*, *Gentiana* and *Ilex* species as well as many rhododendrons being introduced by Glendoick Gardens.

International biodiversity protocols have severely restricted plant collection in the wild so Ken, who now runs the nursery, focuses on breeding new cultivars and hybrids and on developing the gardens. Hybridisation began at Glendoick in the 1950s and the first introduction, made by Peter in 1962, was a dwarf rhododendron with pale-yellow flowers named. *R.* 'Chikor'. A chikor is a game bird and 30 subsequent hybrids bred here have been named after birds.

Shrubs popularly known as azaleas are part of the genus *Rhododendron*. In general, rhododendrons are larger shrubs than azaleas, with larger leaves. Rhododendrons are always evergreen, whereas most azaleas are deciduous. Both have remained popular plants throughout the past century thanks to the flamboyance and colour of their flowers and the range of their foliage. But they do have their detractors: "In researching my book on woodland gardens I saw that the demise of rhodos was predicted in the 1920s, the 1950s and again in the 1970s but they are still popular," says Ken. "It helps that the National Trust and National Trust for Scotland maintain the great rhododendron gardens, making rhododendrons available to garden visitors and inspiring them with their beauty."

A woodland garden is captivating throughout the year but Glendoick, like all woodland gardens, is facing the challenge of a changing climate and, in particular, hotter, drier summers. "One of the problems for woodland gardens is that deciduous trees are so successful at sucking moisture out of the ground that when water is scarce other plants suffer," says Ken. Originating in monsoon areas, rhododendrons do not tolerate drought and heat well.

In response to this challenge, Ken is working with breeders in Germany, where the rhododendron market is larger than the rest of Europe put together, to graft plants on to robust rootstocks. The project is already yielding results and Ken anticipates many new vigorous hybrids that will adapt to hotter summers.

Ken has absorbed two generations of study and understanding of rhododendrons. He writes and lectures extensively, and is a knowledgeable, dedicated and energetic ambassador for the genus. The enthusiasm for rhododendrons that Euan Cox found a century ago is very much still alive at Glendoick. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

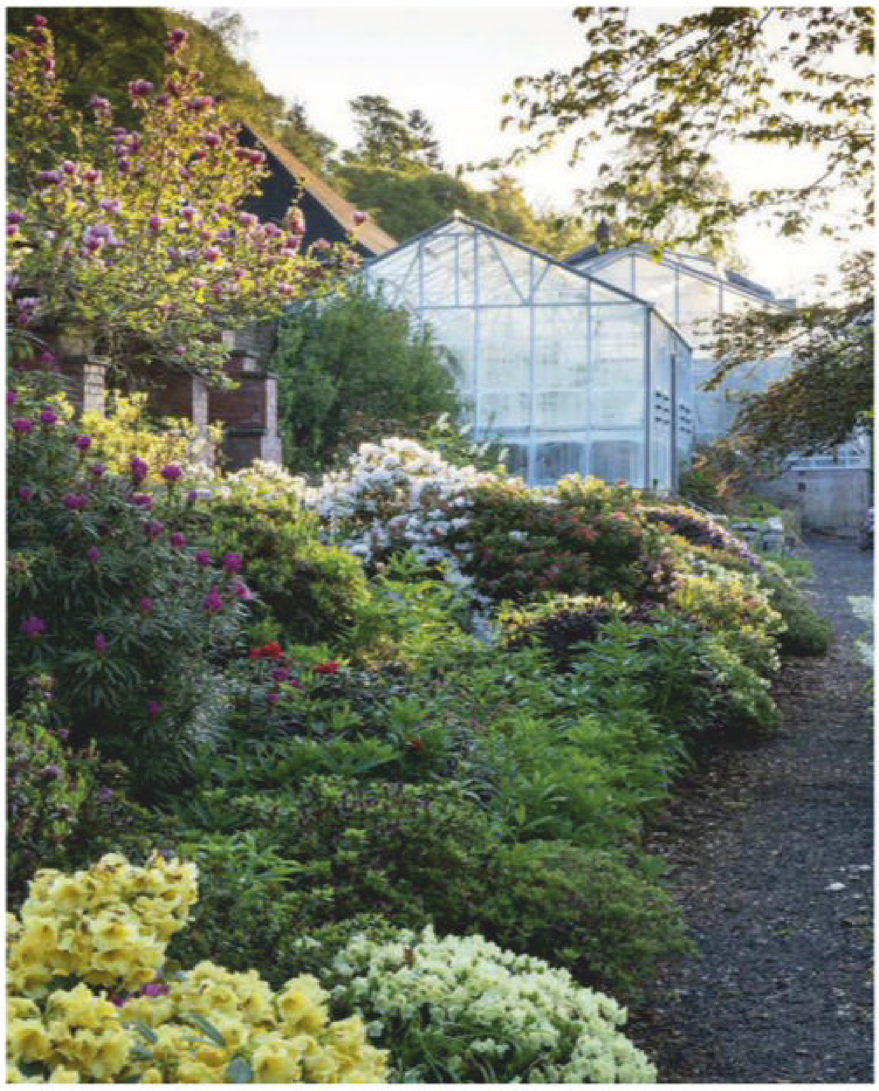
Address Glendoick, Glencarse, Perth PH2 7NS.

Tel 01738 860260.

Web glendoick.com

Open Garden Centre open daily, 9am-5.30pm, throughout summer. (Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm; Sunday, 10am-5pm, in winter). Gardens open daily from 1 April to 31 May, 10am-4pm.

Turn the page for 26 key rhododendrons



Top Father and son Peter (left) and Ken Cox stand at the base of a *Tetradium daniellii*, which was planted by Ken's grandfather, Euan Cox, in 1923. Commonly known as the bee-bee tree, the specimen at Glendoick is one of the biggest in Europe, making it officially a Champion Tree.

Above Hybridising takes place in the greenhouse, where the young plants are nurtured and assessed. Potential hybrids resulting from the breeding programme are rigorously trialled.

Right As yet unnamed hybrids planted in the walled garden, where their performance as garden-worthy plants is evaluated by Peter and Ken.

6 TIPS FOR GROWING RHODODENDRONS

Most rhododendrons require dappled shade so avoid deep shade or full sun. A shady spot that receives a few hours of sun is ideal. The soil should be moist, rich in humus and ideally have a pH of between 4.5 and 6.

Before planting, dig plenty of leaf mould, composted bark or other acidic organic matter into the soil.

Plant in October or March, but do not make too deep a hole. Rhododendrons are surface-rooting and the roots should not be deeply buried.

Keep plants well watered after planting and during hot periods. Each spring apply a bark or leaf mould mulch 8-10cm deep.

For dwarf rhododendrons grown in pots, use a John Innes, loam-based, ericaceous compost. Do not allow the compost to dry out.

Prune only to remove dead or diseased wood and to deadhead finished flowers. Old, overgrown azaleas and large-leaved rhododendrons can be cut back hard, but will need to be mulched and kept well watered to produce new growth.

RHODODENDRONS FROM GLENDOICK

1 ***Rhododendron lindleyi***
Evergreen foliage with leaves up to 15cm long and fragrant, creamy-white flowers that often have a faint pink tinge. 1.4m. RHS H3†.

2 ***Rhododendron*** **'Egret'**
One of the 'bird' series of dwarf rhododendrons bred at Glendoick and introduced in 1982. It produces masses of tiny, white flowers in May. 80cm. AGM*. RHS H4.

3 ***Rhododendron*** **'Tinkerbird'**
A hardy, dwarf rhododendron, with small, evergreen leaves that forms a compact plant. Pink buds open to pure white flowers in early May. 80cm. RHS H4.

4 ***Rhododendron*** **'Chikor'**
The first of Glendoick's 'bird' series and one of the first hybrids with yellow flowers. Bred by Peter Cox and introduced in 1962. Flowers late May. 60cm. RHS H5.

5 ***Rhododendron*** **Glendoick Sherbet (= 'Gle029')**
A recent floriferous hybrid that has pink-tinged, creamy-yellow buds that open to pale-yellow flowers. Forms a dense plant. 1.4m. RHS H4.

6 ***Rhododendron*** **'Merganser'**
A neat and compact evergreen plant with dark foliage that contrasts with the pretty primrose-lemon flowers. A tough plant that begins to flower in early May. 70cm. AGM. RHS H4.

7 ***Rhododendron*** **'Ben Lomond'**
A vigorous and hardy hybrid with deciduous foliage. In late May it produces compact sprays of pale-pink flowers. 1.5m. RHS H5.

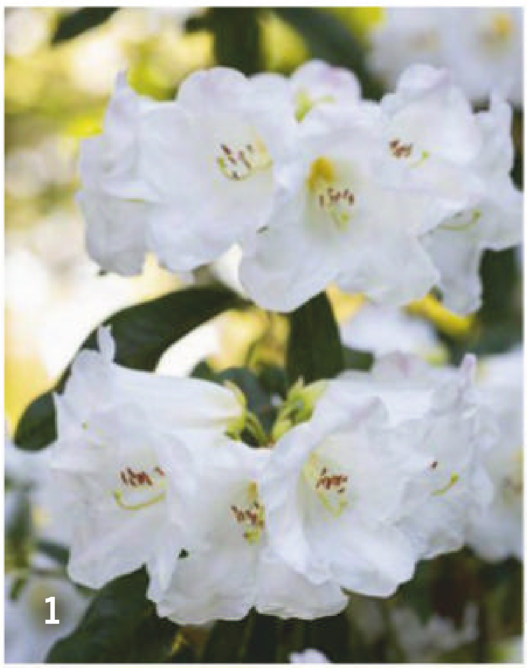
8 ***Rhododendron*** **'Razorbill'**
A dwarf hybrid from the 1970s that in April is smothered with upright-facing, magenta-pink flowers. A robust plant. 70cm. AGM. RHS H5.

9 ***Rhododendron*** **'Graziella'**
A popular and widely available hybrid with polished green leaves and fat buds that open in May to lipstick-pink flowers. 1.5m. RHS H6.

10 ***Rhododendron*** **'Favorite'**
A low-growing, evergreen azalea that was bred in the USA in the 1960s and became popular for its vibrant, bright-pink blossoms. Flowers late May. 75cm. RHS H4.

11 ***Rhododendron*** **Glendoick Starburst (= 'Gle031')**
A spectacular, recently named, hardy, evergreen azalea that was bred at Glendoick. The flowers have narrow, vivid, magenta-pink petals that smother the plant in May. 1.35m. RHS H4.

12 ***Rhododendron*** **species**
A rare, and as yet unnamed, species from Vietnam. It forms a rounded shrub with distinct, convex leaves. The bright-red flowers have a pale throat. 1.2m. RHS H3.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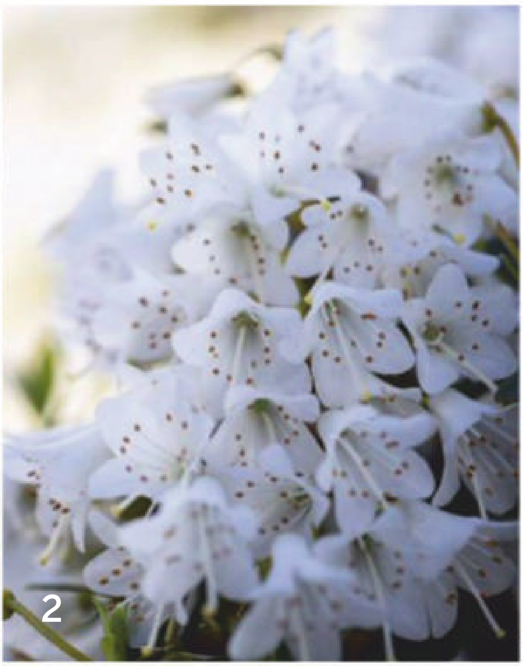
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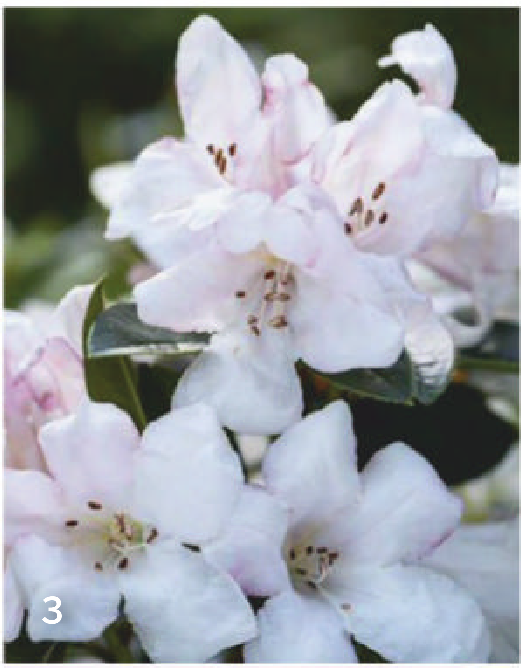
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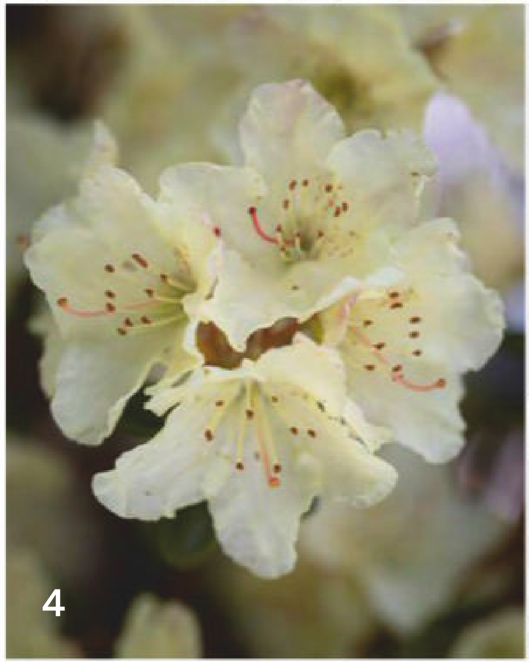
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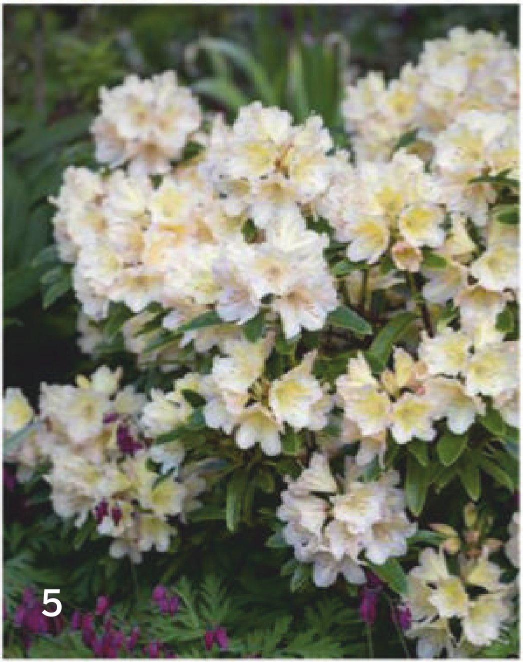
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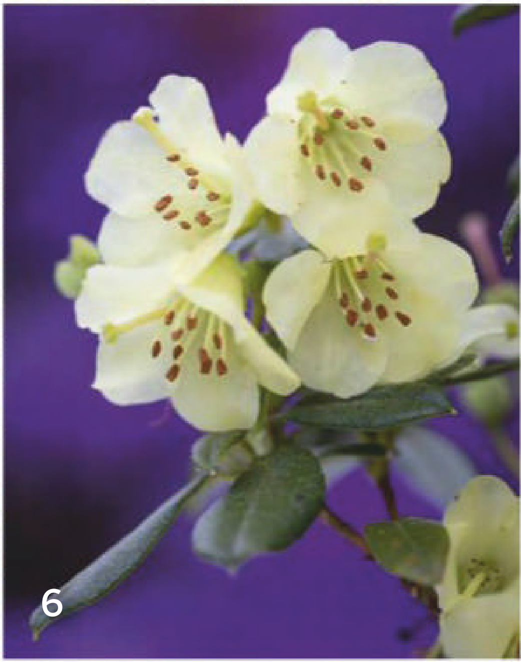
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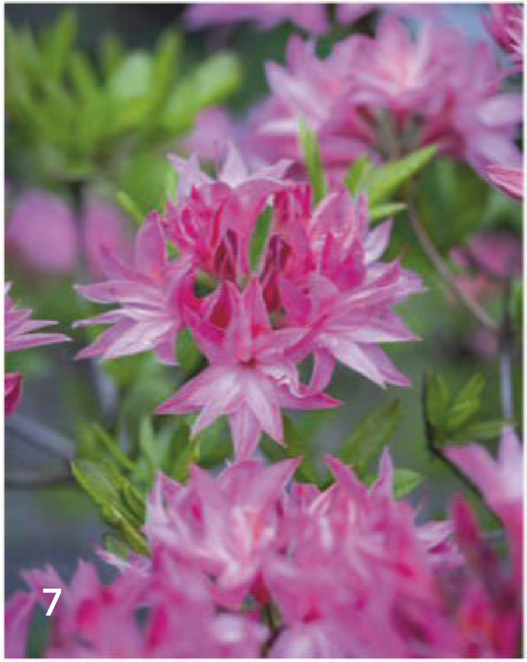
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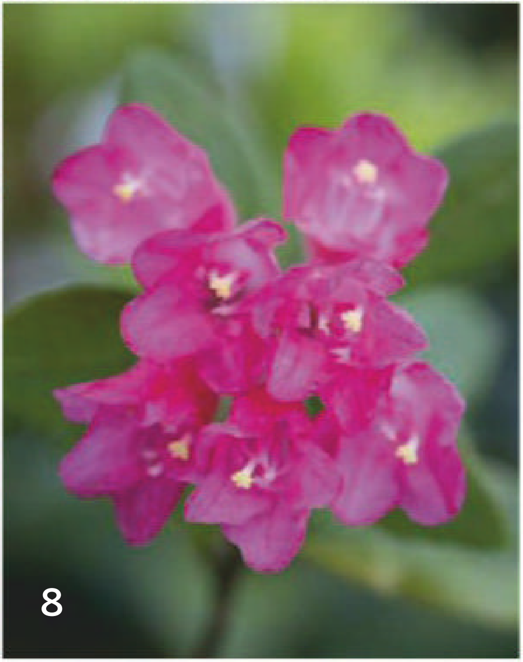
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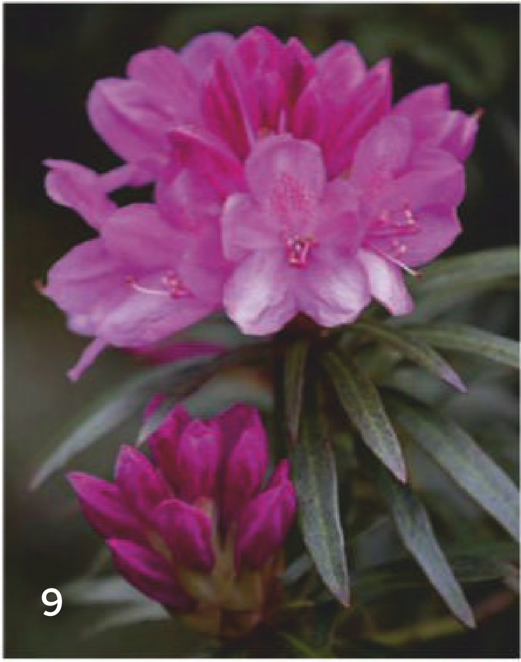
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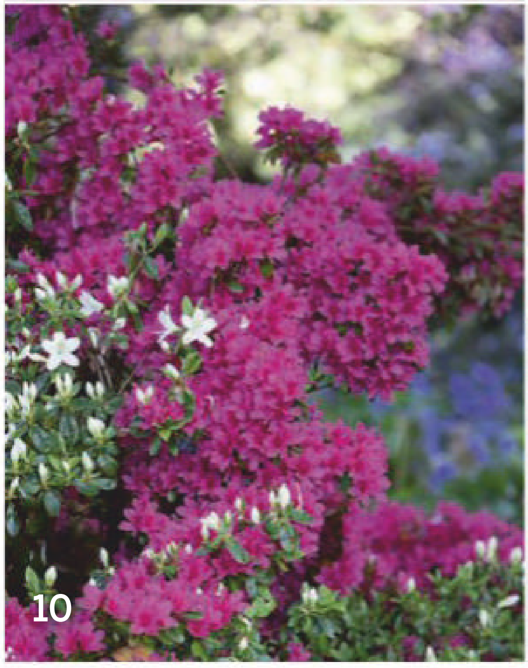
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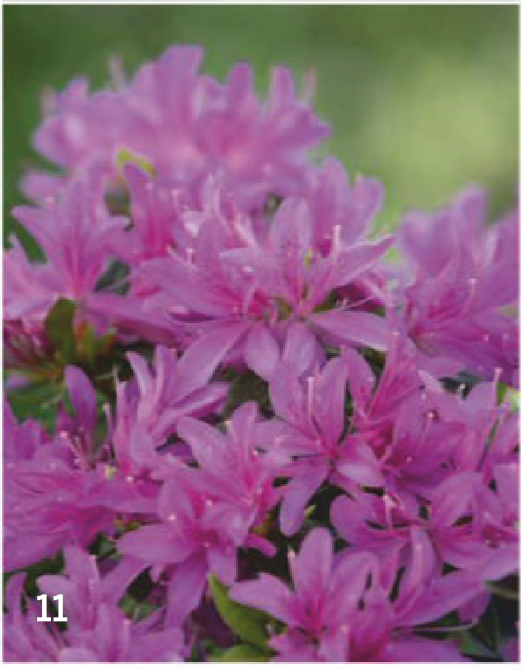
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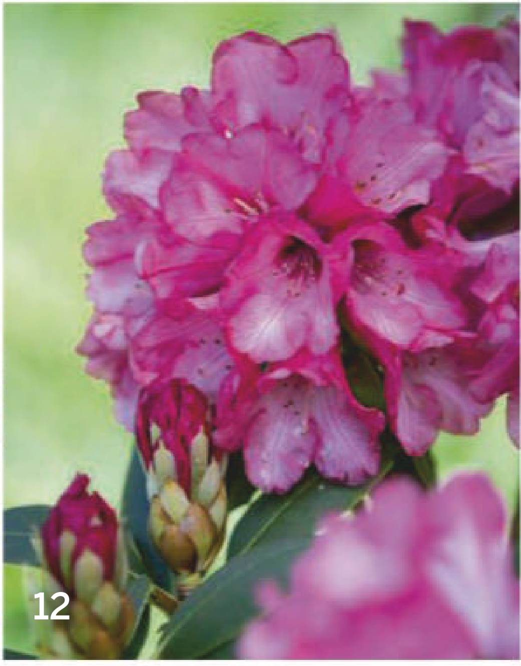
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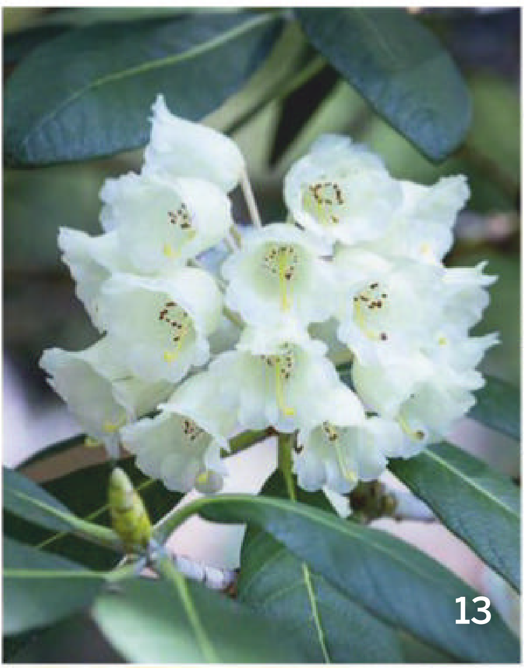
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.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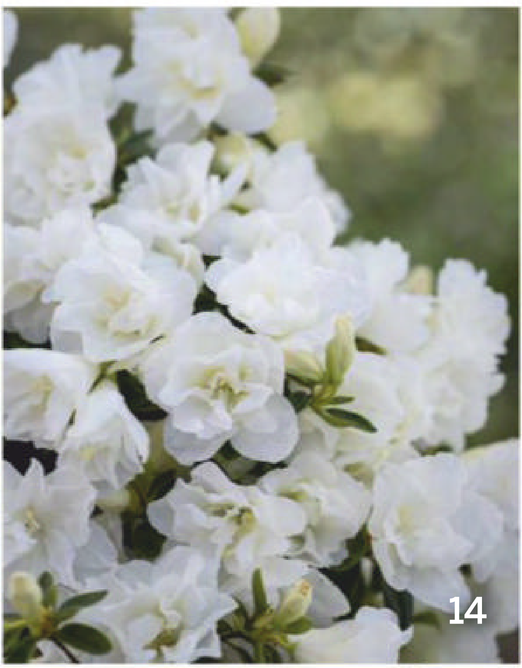
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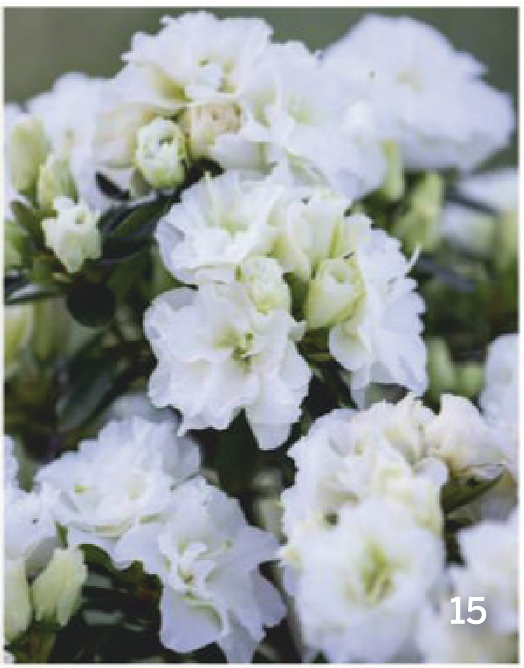
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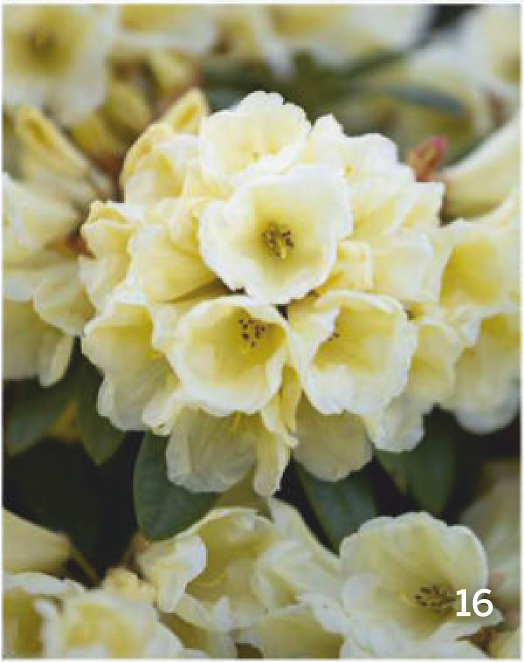
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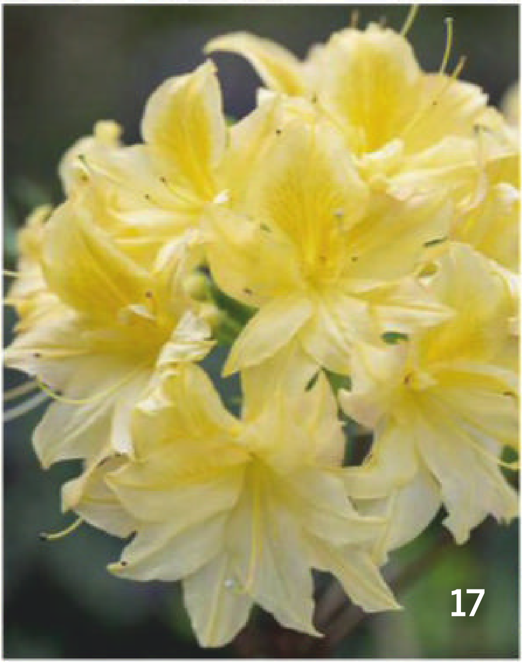
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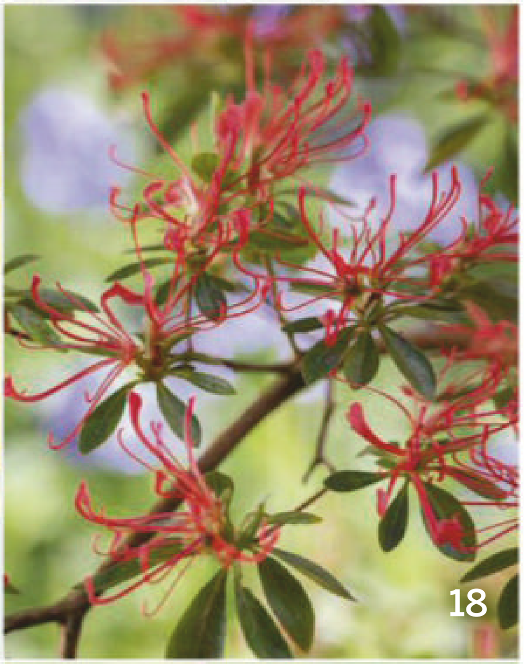
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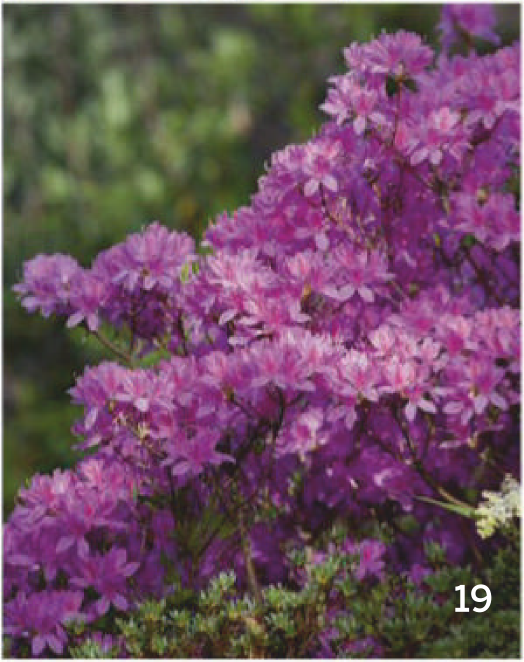
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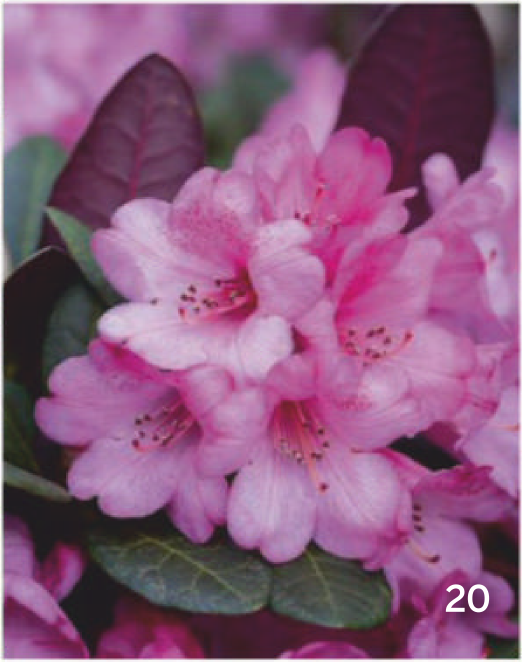
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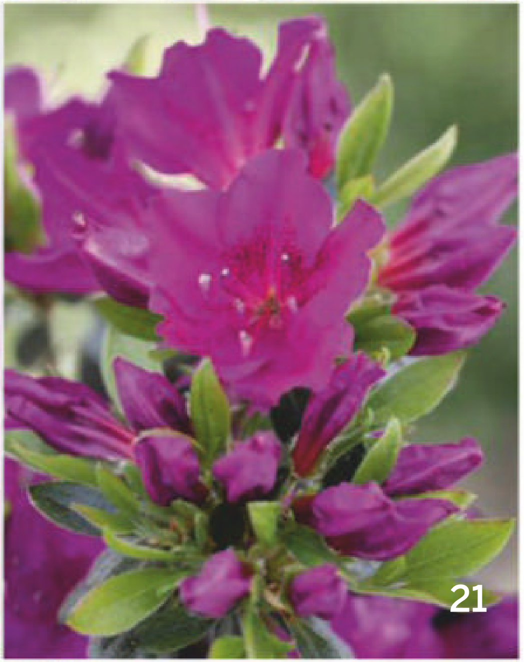
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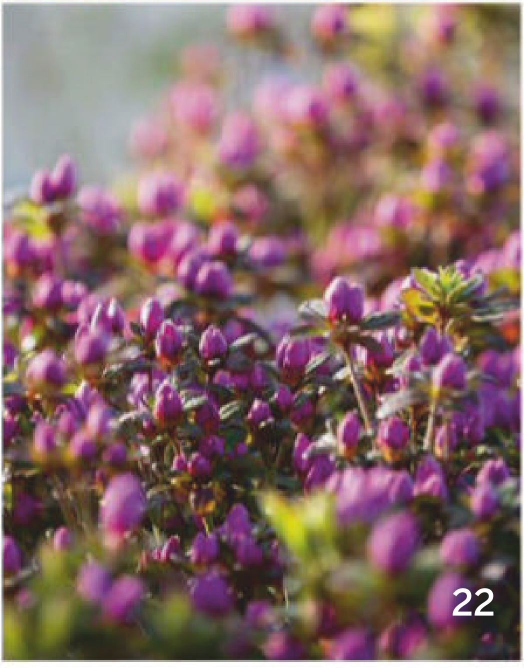
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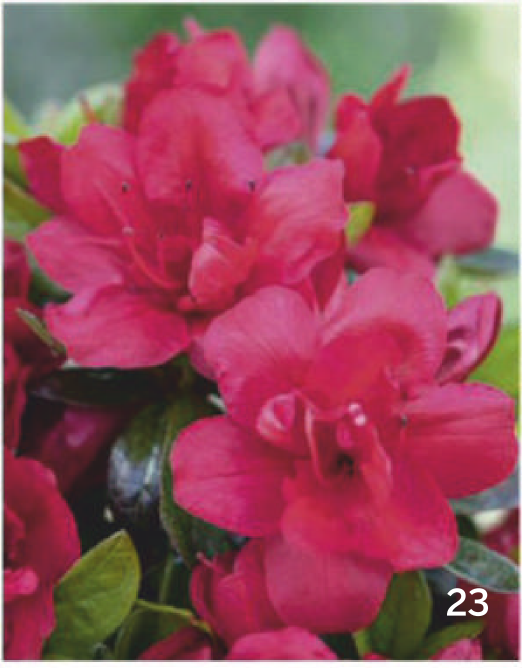
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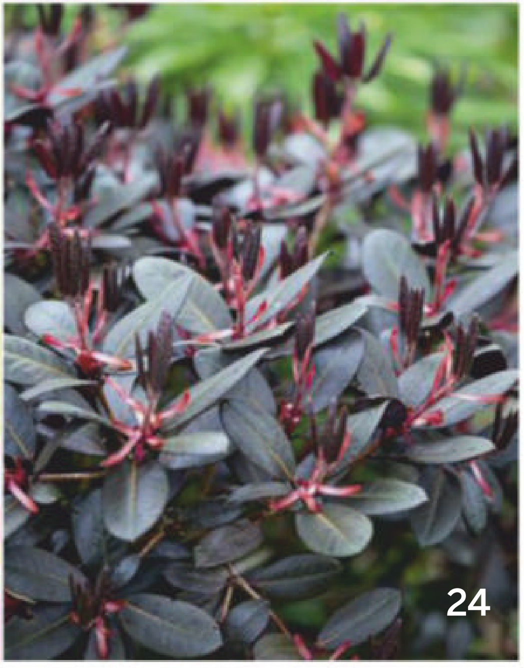
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13 *Rhododendron sinofalconeri*
A large, evergreen species that has leathery leaves up to 30cm long. Bell-shaped, cream to pale-yellow flowers, each up to 5cm long, are borne in trusses in mid-to late spring. 5m. RHS H4.

14 *Rhododendron* Glendoick Gardenia (= 'Gle036')
An evergreen plant with small leaves and masses of large, double, white flowers in late May, named for their resemblance to gardenias. 80cm. RHS H3.

15 *Rhododendron* Glendoick Chiffon (= 'Gle034')
A free-flowering, evergreen hybrid with foliage that takes on a burnished hue in winter. The white, double flowers appear in late May. Compact and dense with good foliage. 1m. RHS H3.

16 *Rhododendron* 'Loch Earn'
A slow-growing and compact hybrid. The pale flowers have a buttery-yellow centre. Very free-flowering. Needs good drainage. 1.25m. RHS H4.

17 *Rhododendron* 'Ben Macdui'
A deciduous, small-leaved plant with rounded trusses of rich-yellow, double flowers. Named after the highest mountain in the Cairngorms, it's a cross between *R.* 'Narcissiflorum' and *R.* 'Arneson's Gem'. 1.2m. RHS H5.

18 *Rhododendron kaempferi* 'Semperflorens'
A floriferous azalea with narrow petals and spider-like flowers that is native to Japan. A hardy plant that is reputed to tolerate sunny situations. 1.5m. RHS H5.

19 *Rhododendron* 'Fraseri'
Bred in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, this is a tough, floriferous hybrid with deciduous foliage. 1.25m. RHS H6.

20 *Rhododendron* Wine and Roses (='Pinkros')
A floriferous hybrid with masses of shocking-pink flowers. The leaves emerge with a bronze sheen and have deep-purple undersides. 1.25m. RHS H5.

21 *Rhododendron* 'Opossum'
An evergreen azalea bred at Glendoick in the 1990s, and part of a group chosen to be hardy in Scotland. Compact, spreading habit with reddish-purple flowers. 60cm. RHS H5.

22 *Rhododendron* Glendoick Candyfloss (= 'Gle033')
A new, evergreen azalea cultivar, introduced for the centenary of Glendoick Gardens this year. It is a vigorous plant with bright-pink double flowers in late May. 1.35m. RHS H4.

23 *Rhododendron* Glendoick Goblin (= 'Gle010')
An evergreen azalea with a rounded, compact habit and carmine-red flowers. During the winter the foliage develops a deep-purple sheen. 80cm. RHS H4.

24 *Rhododendron* Everred (='851C')
A recent Glendoick dwarf hybrid with eye-catching, deep-purple leaves that hold their colour all year round, and bright-red flowers. Slow-growing, but a real stunner. 60cm. RHS H5.

Hare Spring Cottage Plants is tucked away in the village of Alne, 12 miles northwest of York. The former riverside paddock is filled with pots of wide-ranging, flowering perennials, while naturalising camassias, Solomon's seal, lily of the valley and ferns line the damp, dappled banks of a woodland walk. "The camassias love the heavy, damp soil here," says nursery owner Stella Exley, who relocated her nursery and National Collection here in 2016. "We knew it was in a flood risk area, but despite the precaution of raising stock on benches, the nursery was submerged under a metre of water for six weeks in 2018," she recalls. This was only weeks before facing the eagle-eyed judges at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. She still managed to win silver gilt.

Stella first saw camassias naturalised in a Devon garden, and was captivated by their star-like, six-petalled blooms: "It was a revelation that became my passion." She added *Sidalcea* and *Uvularia* to her portfolio, and after many years of growing and collecting, created Hare Spring Cottage Plants in 2012. A chance meeting with Chris Beardshaw at Arley Hall Garden Festival, Cheshire, led to Stella supplying more than 1,000 camassias for the designer's gold medal-winning garden at the 2014 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. His subsequent RHS Chelsea gardens held rarer displays of blue-striped *Camassia cusickii* 'Zwanenburg' and *C. leichtlinii* 'Pink Star', which Stella simultaneously exhibited in the Great Pavilion.

This year Stella hopes to introduce one of the six amethyst-pink seedlings she has bred herself. "I hope to make delicate pinks, mauves and amethysts as readily available as the blues," she says, also keen to create a pure white, improving on the ice-grey *C. cusickii* 'Crystal Star.' She inherited, among many others, several pink-tinged specimens from the late Margaret Owen, former holder of the National Collection, who found several self-made, pink crosses in her Shrewsbury garden. Stella has helped to safeguard and identify Owen's plants, which is an ongoing task.

Camassias are native to the damp meadowlands of North America where *C. quamash* was once grown as a foodstuff by Native Americans. The six predominantly blue, species range in height from the statuesque *C. leichtlinii* (1.2m) to the squatter *C. quamash* (30cm). Myriad blue tones range from deepest-indigo *C. quamash* 'Orion' to denim-blue *C. leichtlinii* 'Blue Candle'. Somewhere in between the starry-eyed singles and full doubles are gently ruffled blooms such as *C. leichtlinii* 'Harlequin'. Delicate-pink *C. leichtlinii* 'Pink Star' is a rare, more recent phenomenon. Strap-like foliage is finer, more grass-like, on smaller specimens and a few have variegated leaves, such as *C. quamash* 'Blue Melody,' and *C. leichtlinii* 'Sacajawea'. Flowering begins around mid to late April with *C. leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group and culminates some eight to ten weeks later with starbursts of *C. leichtlinii* 'Semiplena' in late May to June. "Flowers last even longer in dappled shade," says Stella, "but these versatile plants shine in many planting schemes."

Stella has always been passionate about plants. "My grandad used to take me down the garden in his wheelbarrow and I'd come back with a fist full of chrysanthemums," she recalls. "What would he think of me now?" ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Hare Spring Cottage Plants, Church Orchard, Alne, York YO61 1RX. **Website** harespringcottageplants.co.uk
Open 4-5 May and 10-11 August, 11am-4pm. See website for details of events Stella will be attending throughout the year.

Turn the page for 13 key camassias

STARS IN HER EYES

An avid grower and collector of camassias, Stella Exley holds the National Collection with more than 80 different specimens at her riverside nursery in Yorkshire

WORDS **JACKY HOBBS** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLIVE NICHOLS**

A beautiful spring meadow of *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group thriving in the dappled shade of an outstretched blossoming cherry, *Prunus* 'Ichiyo.'

KEY CAMASSIAS FROM HARE SPRING COTTAGE

1 *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* 'Alba' Single, star-shaped, creamy-white flowers with lilac-tinged anthers. Flowers from late spring, its floriferous racemes held high on sturdy stems. Perfect for naturalising. 1.2m.

2 *Camassia cusickii* 'Zwanenburg' Plump flower buds burst into lavender-blue petals that wear a paler central stripe. A favourite of designer Chris Beardshaw. 75cm.

3 *Camassia* 'Blue Heaven' A mid-height, hybrid cross between *C. leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* and *C. cusickii*. The flower spike bears around 100 radiating pale, sky-blue, star-like flowers, the petals slightly recurved. 80cm. RHS H4[†].

4 *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group A good naturaliser; tall, statuesque and one of the first to flower, its cool-green buds burst into purply-blue stars, studded with sulphur-yellow stamens. 1.3m. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

5 *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Pink Star' A relatively rare, delicate, pale pink, but increasingly available. Featured in Chris Beardshaw's 2018 Chelsea gold-medal-winning and Best in Show garden. 75cm.

6 *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Harlequin' Softer sprays of creamy-white, ragged flowers replace trademark star-shaped florets. Borne on long flower wands, with sage-green stems. Rare. 90cm-1.2m.

7 *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Semiplena' This white, double-petalled cultivar has sterile flowers that are the last and longest to bloom, right into June. 90cm.

8 *Camassia quamash* 'Orion' One of the deepest indigo blues available, its short stature and grass-like foliage is good for fronting mixed meadows, fringing ponds and in small containers. 35cm.

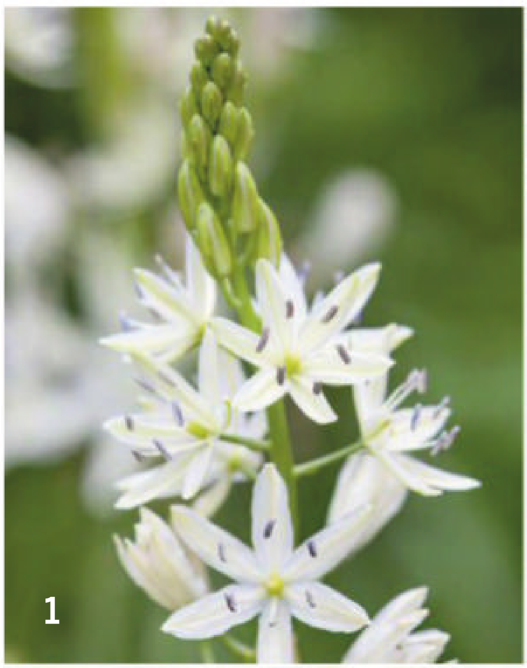
9 *Camassia quamash* 'Blue Melody' A short cultivar with pale-blue flowers and yellow anthers that pick up on the striped-yellow margins of its variegated foliage. Good for front of border, meadows or containers. 35cm. RHS H4.

10 *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Blue Candle' Huge, dense racemes of denim-blue flowers on sturdy stems. Great in mixed borders but also naturalises well. 75cm.

11 *Camassia leichtlinii* 'Sacajawea' A creamy-flowered cultivar with distinctive, architectural, variegated foliage. 80cm. RHS H4.

12 *Camassia leichtlinii* amethyst seedling One of six unnamed cultivars, bred by Stella, who is developing a range of pink-amethyst-hued cultivars. 70cm.

13 *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* 'Maybelle' A recent introduction with sturdy but beautiful racemes of vivid-blue-tinted, purple flowers and golden stamens that bloom from May onwards. 60cm. RHS H4.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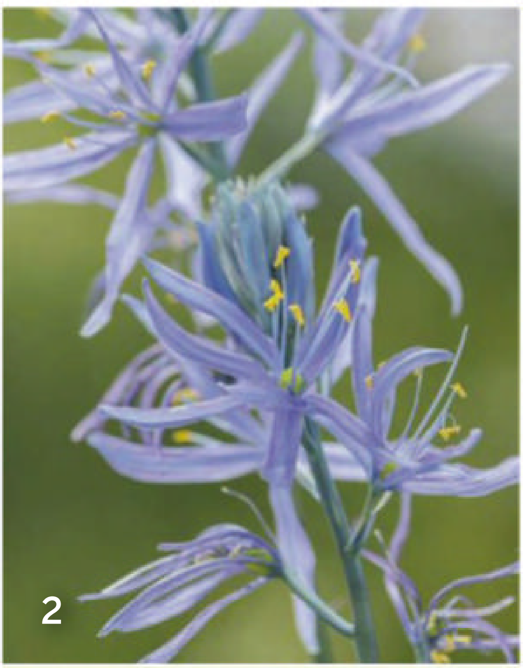
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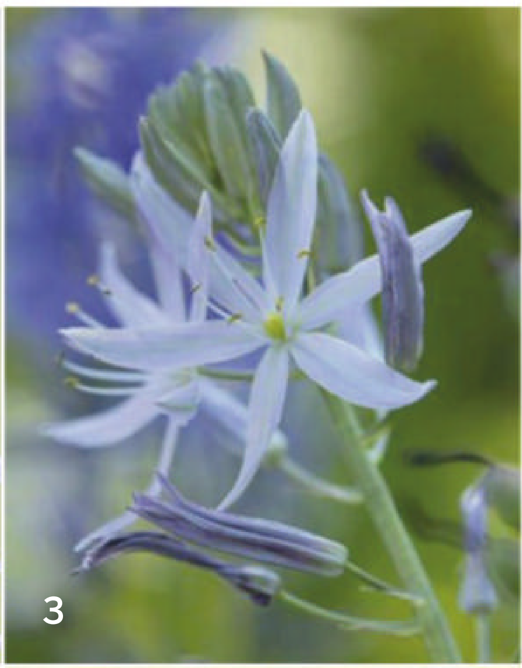
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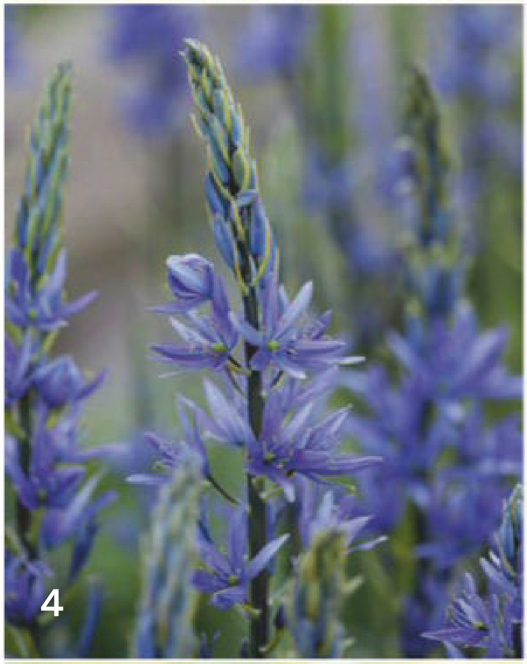
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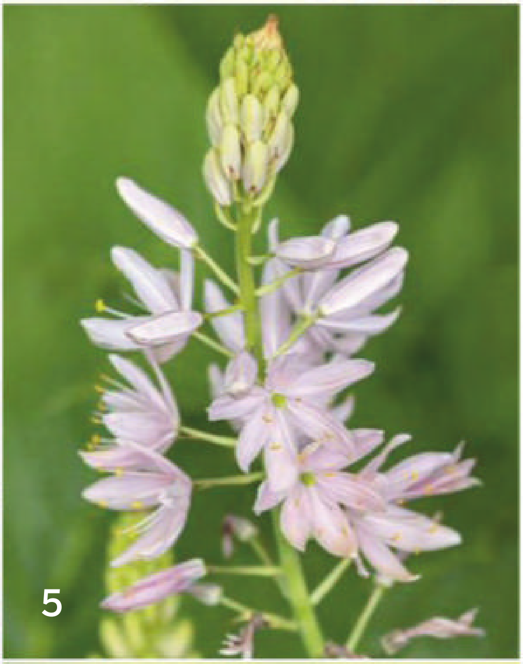
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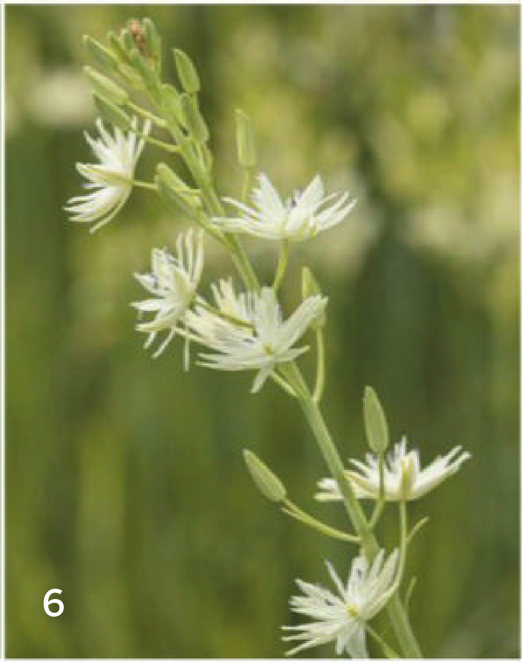
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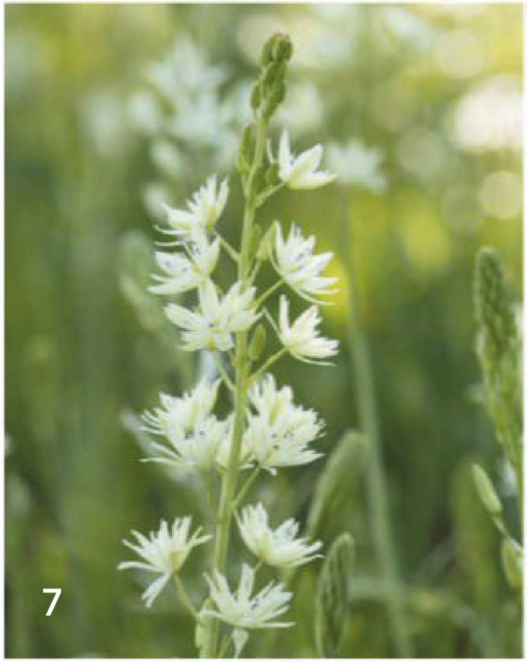
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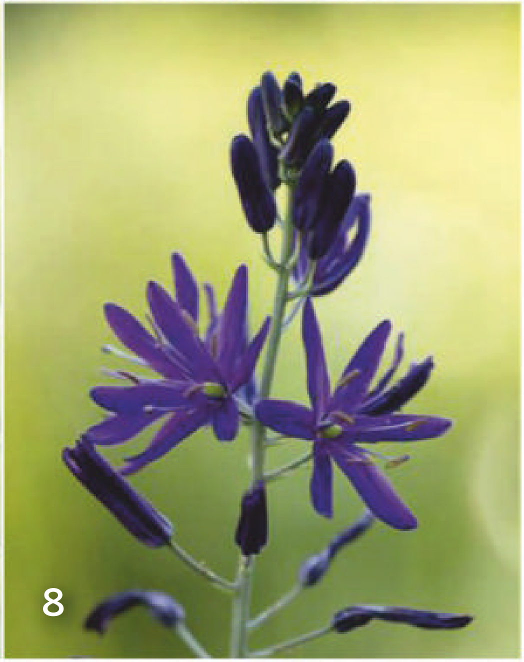
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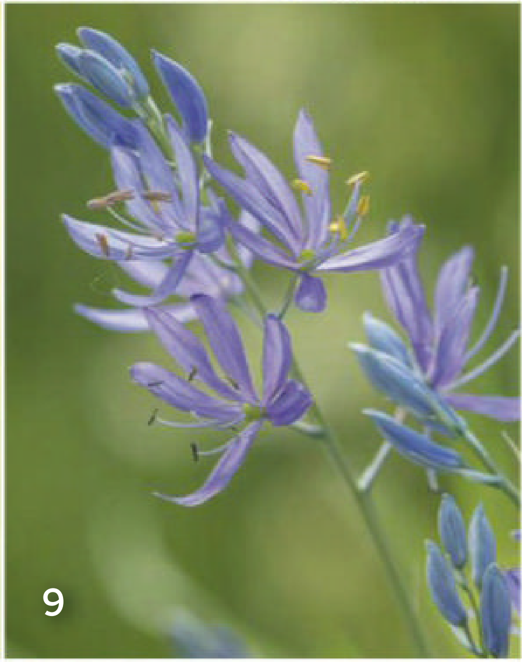
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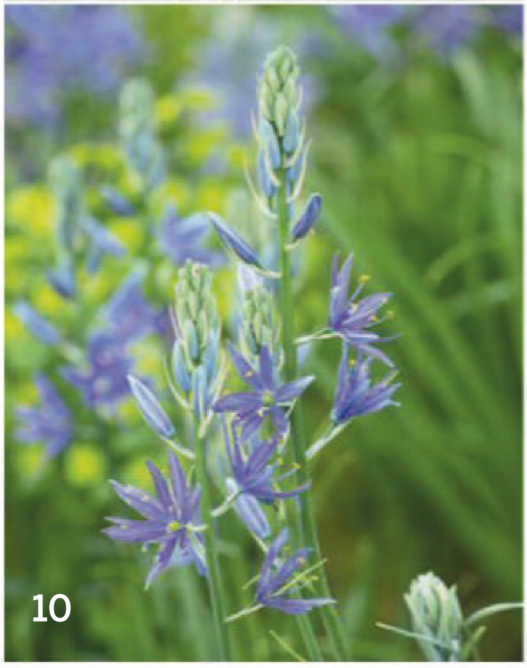
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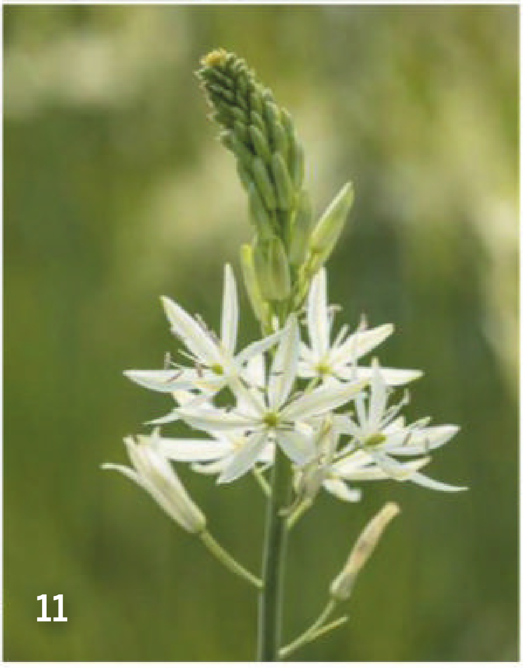
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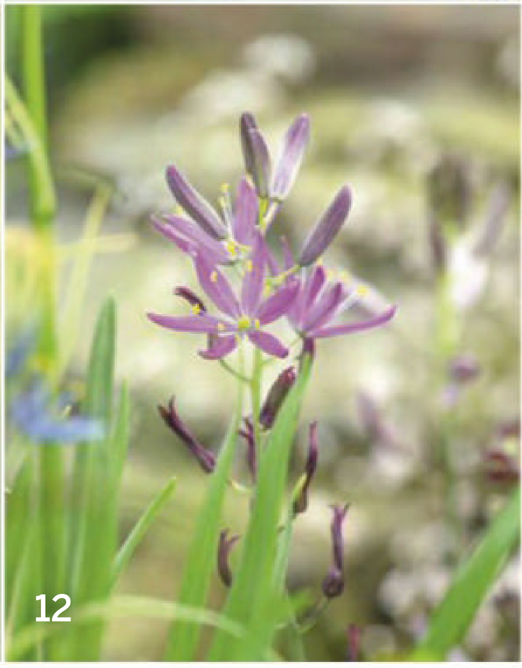
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*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

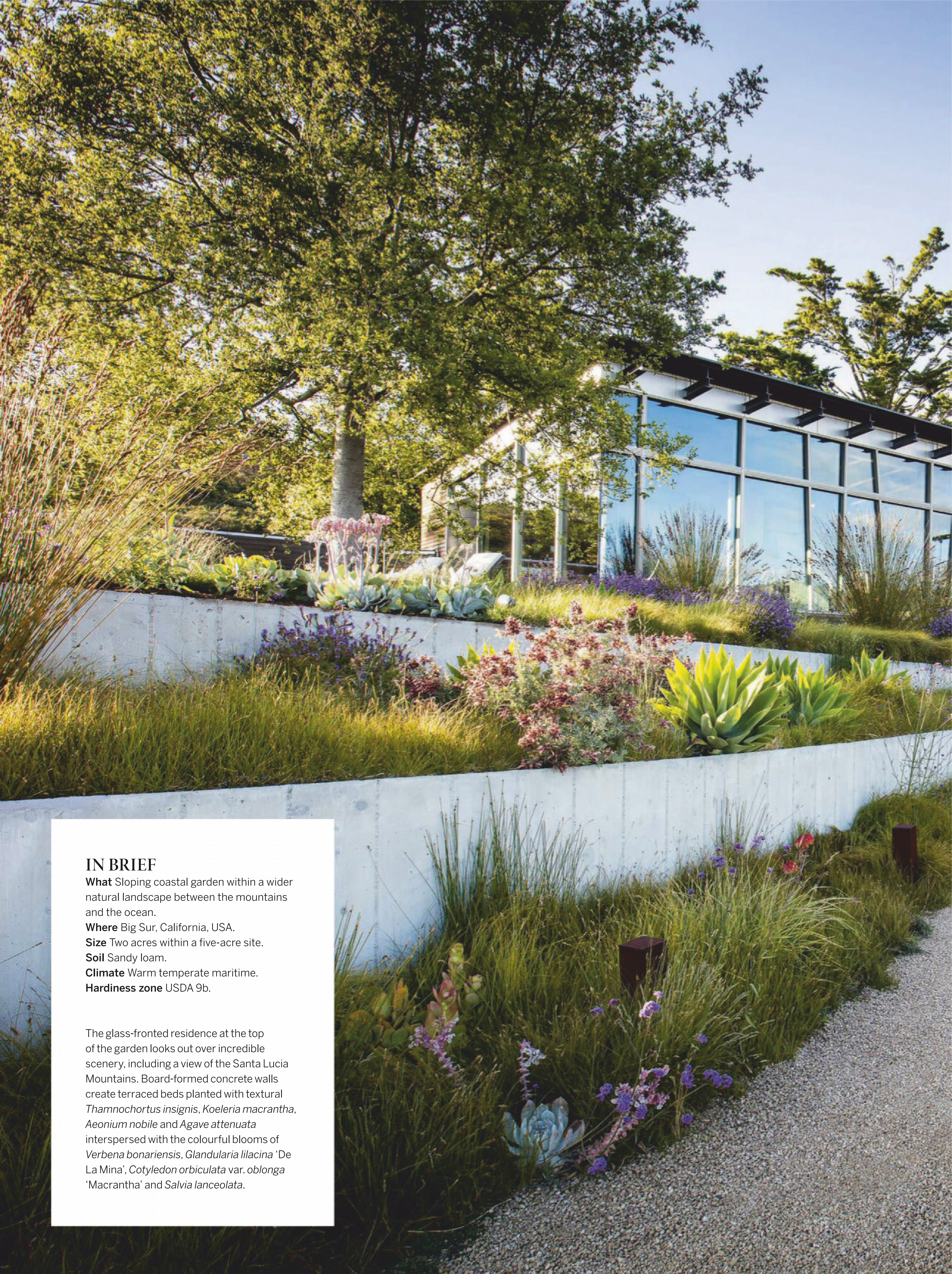
TIPS FOR GROWING CAMASSIAS

These hardy, bulbous perennials are really versatile and can be used for a variety of planting schemes, including in mixed and herbaceous borders, meadows and wildflower areas; alongside streams, riverbanks, ponds and woodland edges; or in containers.

For best results, grow them in reliably moist soil and introduce a little shade if possible to ensure that the flowers hold longer. Water in their dormant period (July to December) if there are prolonged dry periods.

Plant dry bulbs out in autumn (September to November) in a damp, dappled site, 20cm deep or roughly two to three times their own depth and 6-10cm apart. Water in well. If they don't flower, they're too dry or overcrowded and ready for splitting. (Stella supplies dormant bulbs in autumn or pots of bulbs and plants from January to August.)

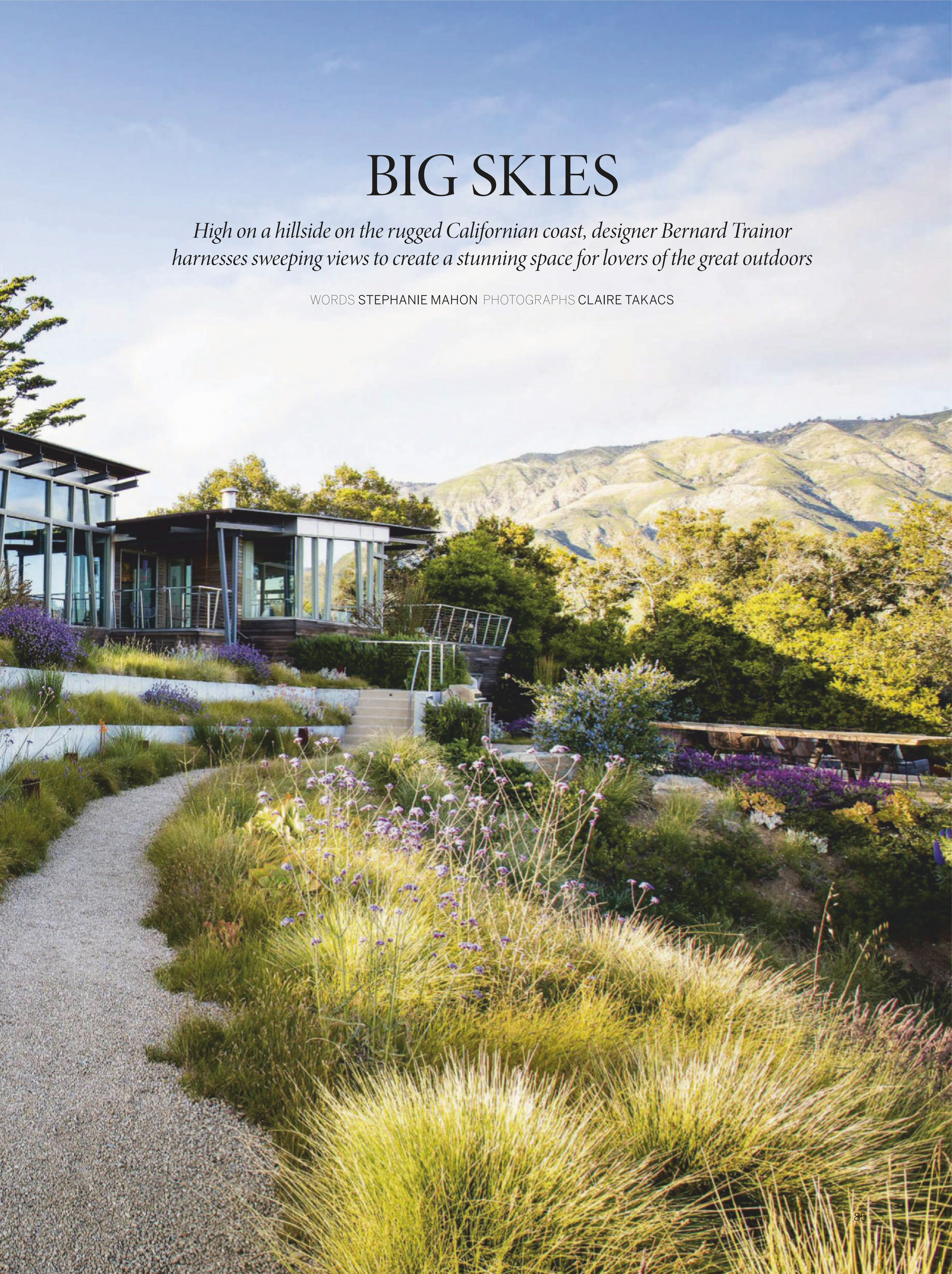
Divide established clumps in July to August as new tips can start to emerge from September onwards. Replant at the same depth as the original clump. No need to feed.



IN BRIEF

What Sloping coastal garden within a wider natural landscape between the mountains and the ocean.
Where Big Sur, California, USA.
Size Two acres within a five-acre site.
Soil Sandy loam.
Climate Warm temperate maritime.
Hardiness zone USDA 9b.

The glass-fronted residence at the top of the garden looks out over incredible scenery, including a view of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Board-formed concrete walls create terraced beds planted with textural *Thamnochortus insignis*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Aeonium nobile* and *Agave attenuata* interspersed with the colourful blooms of *Verbena bonariensis*, *Glandularia lilacina* 'De La Mina', *Cotyledon orbiculata* var. *oblonga* 'Macrantha' and *Salvia lanceolata*.



BIG SKIES

High on a hillside on the rugged Californian coast, designer Bernard Trainor harnesses sweeping views to create a stunning space for lovers of the great outdoors

WORDS **STEPHANIE MAHON** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**

High up on a ridge, along the rugged stretch of coastal California known as Big Sur, an intriguing, glass-fronted house perches over a singular, south-facing garden. This unique position affords an eye-popping panorama, taking in everything from the Santa Lucia Mountains in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. Seeing these changes of terrain in one view is like "having two pages of a book open at the same time," says designer Bernard Trainor.

He was brought on to the project to work with architect Mary Ann Schicketanz, and their two studios collaborated to make the property something really special. There was no garden to speak of when Bernard first visited. The area around the house site was surrounded by a natural landscape that moved through several communities of plants, or ecotones, from existing woodland, through dry parched hills baked by the sun, to a coastal habitat that experiences regular wind and fog.

The difficulty of making a garden here was compounded by the steep drop off from the house. "It is a typical, challenging, sloping landscape – there are very few flat sites in California," explains Bernard. "I like the changes in topography, but sloping sites require more structural work to hold things in place." Despite the challenges, he was excited to be working on the project, and formed an immediate connection with the clients – a couple who wanted a place to relax and enjoy the outdoors. "They are really into gardens," he says, "and they have a huge appetite for plants. They gave us an idea of how they wanted to use the space – to move around the site having different experiences."

Bernard and his team came up with a design concept that would satisfy the need for entertaining and leisure spaces while also helping to set the house and garden comfortably within the wider landscape. The solution was to have many areas on several levels, facing different views. On the east side, a terrace off the living room offers vistas to the water, and gives on to another seating area above the water wall, which spills into an infinity-edge swimming pool. Steps lead down to an office with a green roof. On the opposite side of the house, facing the mountains, is the main outdoor gathering space, with a dining terrace and a fire pit.

Paths of crushed granite and poured concrete slabs anchor the buildings in the garden, and retaining walls of board-formed concrete help to connect the various spaces and levels to each other. "It is interesting how the walls and buildings work with the topography," Bernard says. "I like the way they curve around the contours of the site, and how the office seems to bend over and fold into the earth."

Moving outwards from these overtly designed areas, the boundaries between garden and natural landscape beyond start to blur, with trees giving way to woodland trails, and terraced beds of well-mannered planting flowing gradually down into wilder vegetation. "I love the way the built landscape phases out into the existing indigenous planting, seamlessly blending the edges of the two," he says.

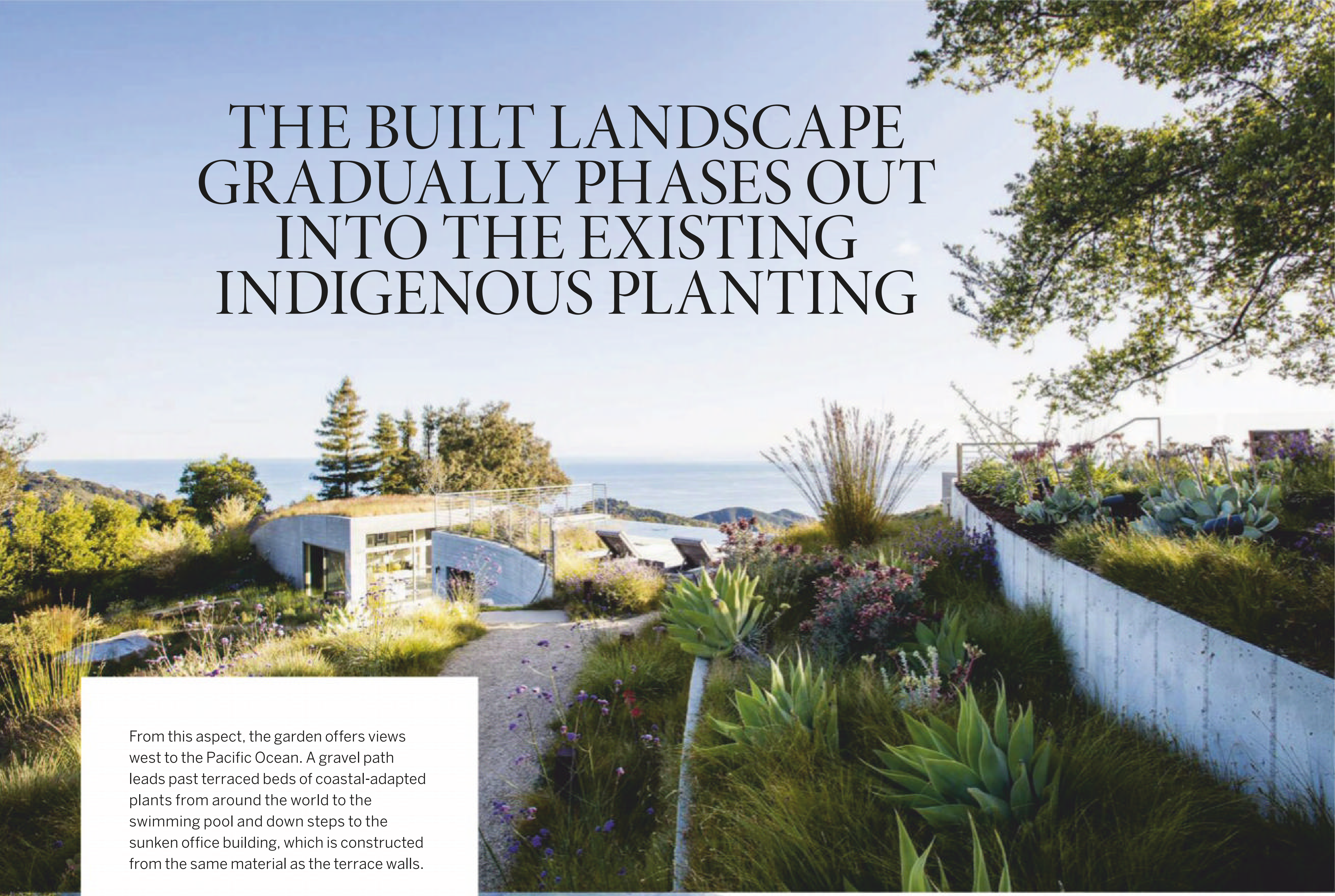
The success of these transitions is down to the planting, which comprises a range of coastal ecosystem plants that can handle the harsh, windblown conditions. "It looks as if it's all from here, but it's not," explains Bernard. "It's actually a combination of native Californian species and other climate-appropriate plants from around the world, a planting that was created to be as biodiverse as possible. It looks simple, but it is in fact quite complex."

The planting includes a broad mix of herbaceous perennials, grasses, sedges, succulents and shrubs, from verbenas and salvias to aloes and agaves. This refined palette gives way further down the slope to native shrubland known as chaparral, where bushes of *Garrya*, *Rhamnus*, *Ceanothus*, *Heteromeles* and *Larrea* have fought back to life from the charred earth following a serious wildfire that took hold in the area, just as the project was being finished in 2015. "It only affected the edges of the garden," says Bernard. "We were so lucky."

Bernard created the garden with Ben Langford and David LeRoy, his two partners in the design practice Ground Studio. "We do our best work as a collective, whereas I would be limited in what I could do if it were just me," he says. He admits that this is one of his favourite projects, and the owners love their new garden. They spend a lot of time enjoying the different areas with their family, especially in spring, though the climate and planting mean it looks good all year round. Bernard is always a welcome guest, visiting often to check how the planting has established, and working with his clients to continue developing this rich horticultural tapestry. □

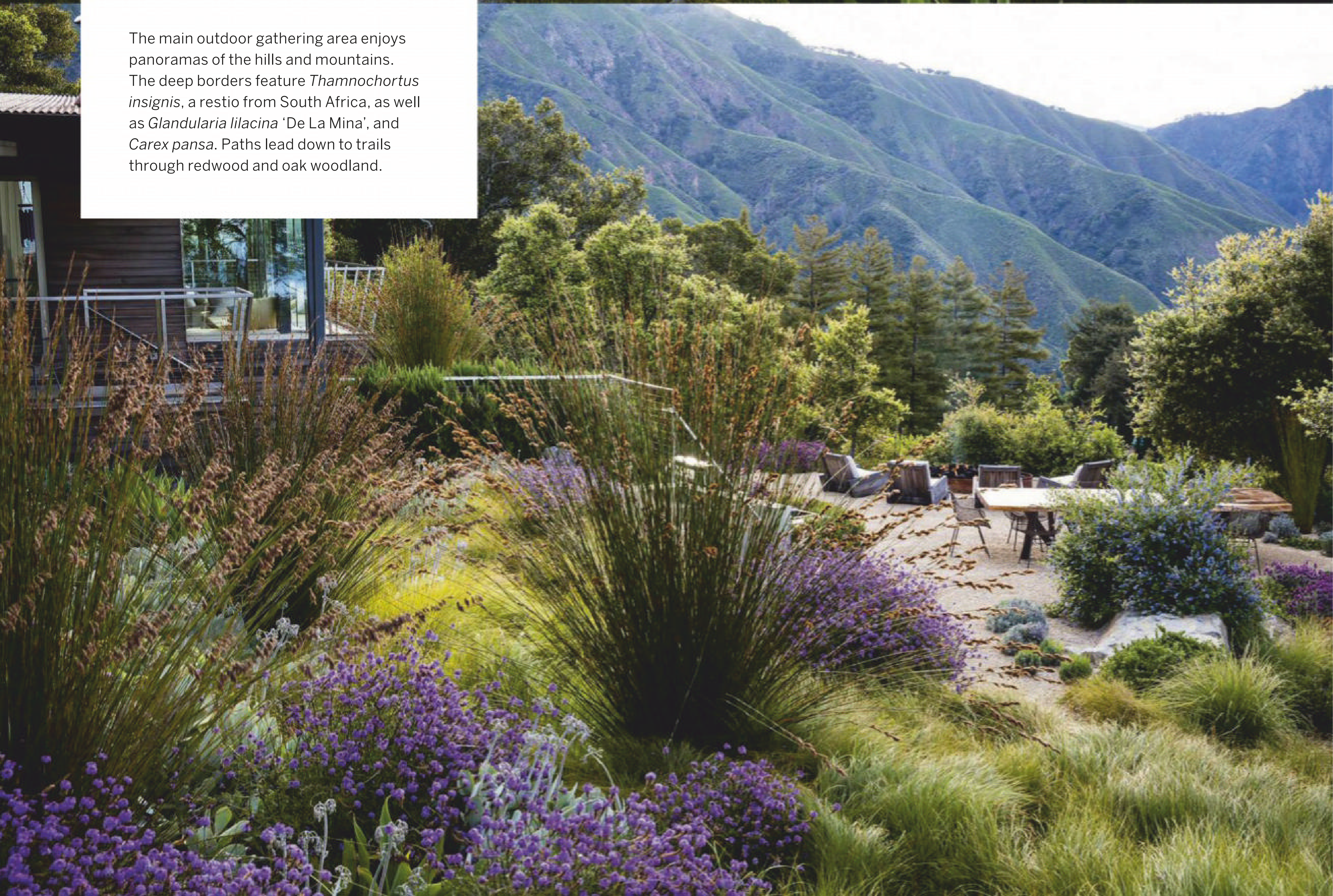
USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Bernard's work at **groundstudio.com**

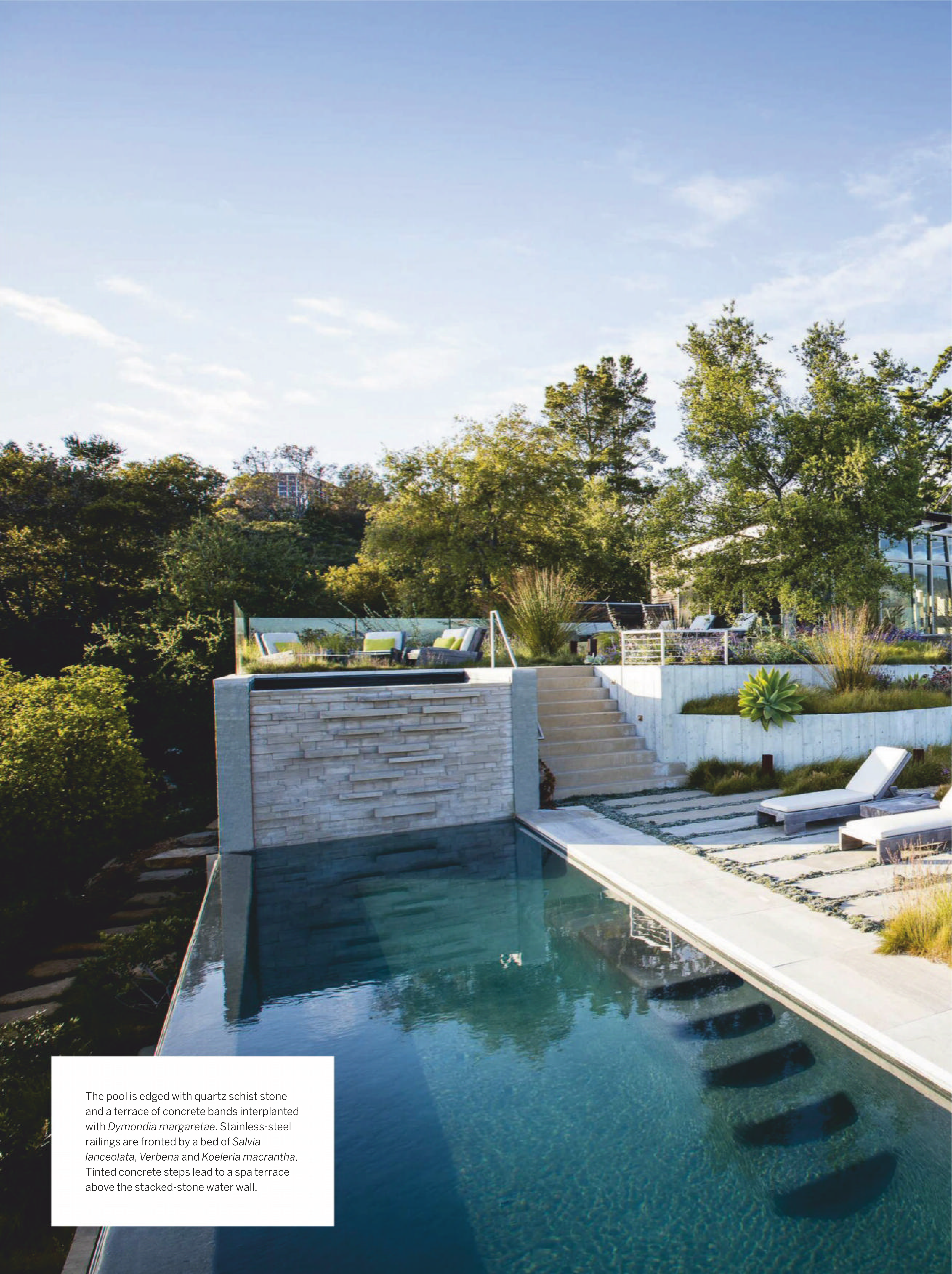
THE BUILT LANDSCAPE GRADUALLY PHASES OUT INTO THE EXISTING INDIGENOUS PLANTING



From this aspect, the garden offers views west to the Pacific Ocean. A gravel path leads past terraced beds of coastal-adapted plants from around the world to the swimming pool and down steps to the sunken office building, which is constructed from the same material as the terrace walls.

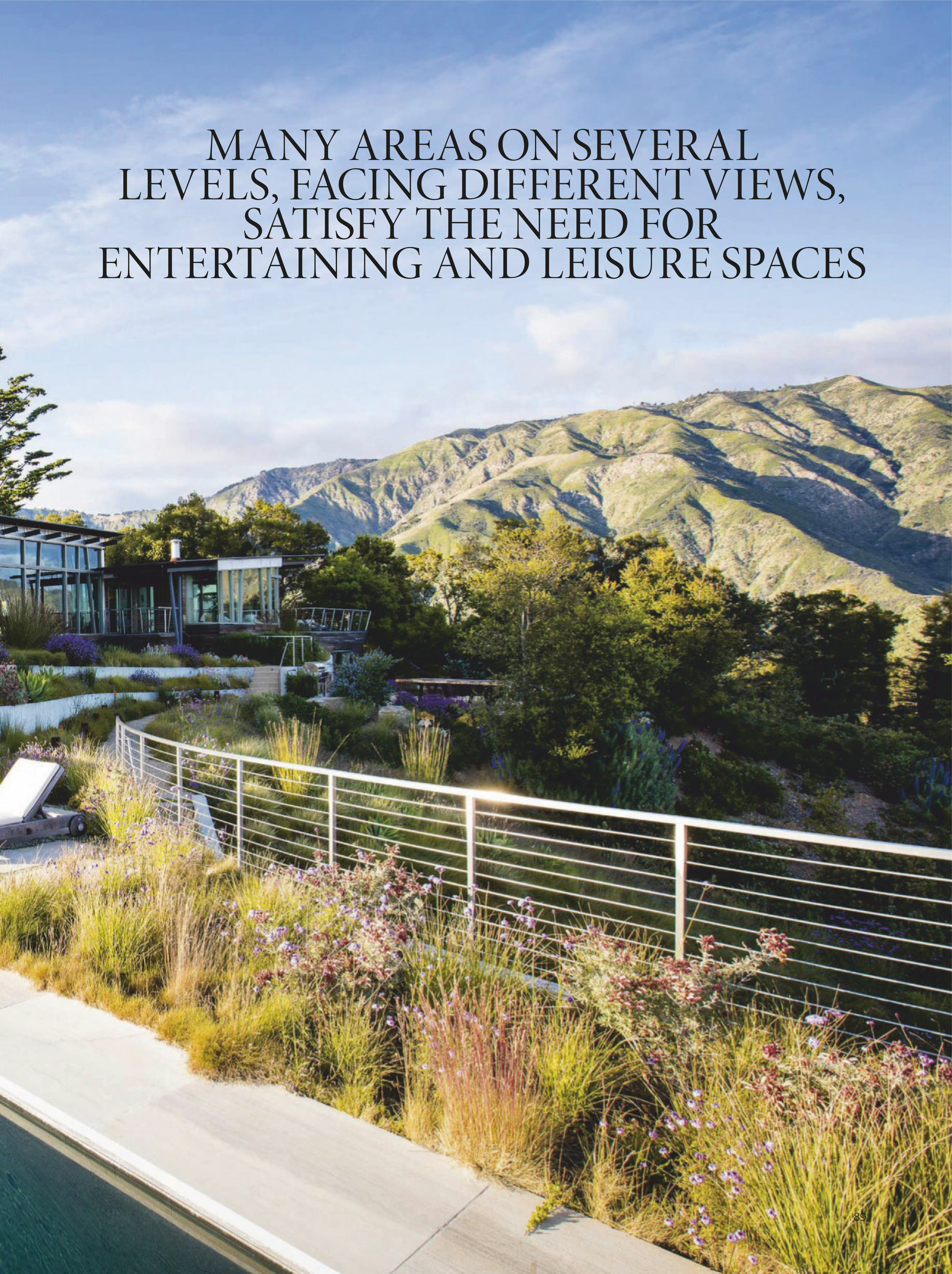
The main outdoor gathering area enjoys panoramas of the hills and mountains. The deep borders feature *Thamnochortus insignis*, a restio from South Africa, as well as *Glandularia lilacina* 'De La Mina', and *Carex pansa*. Paths lead down to trails through redwood and oak woodland.

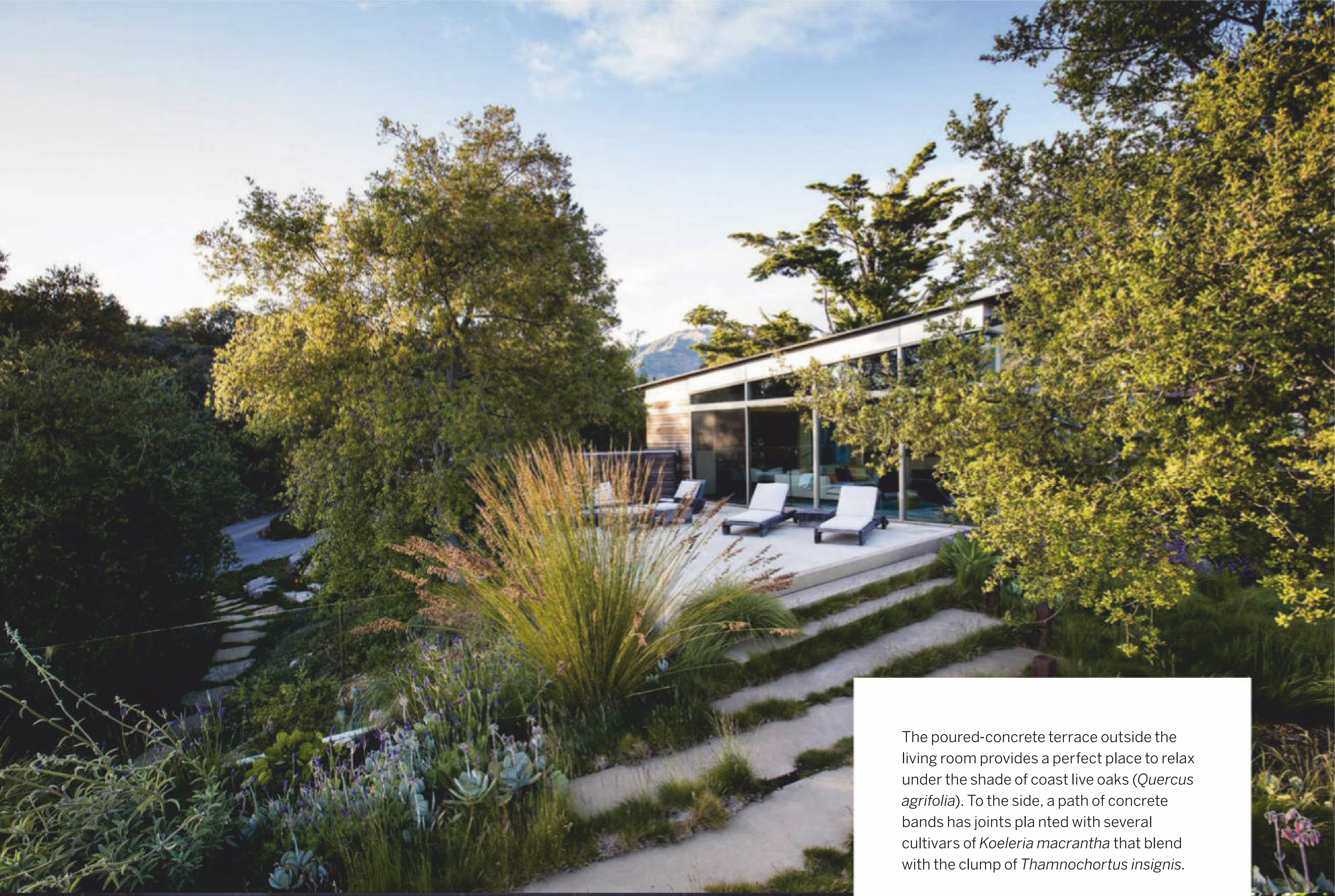




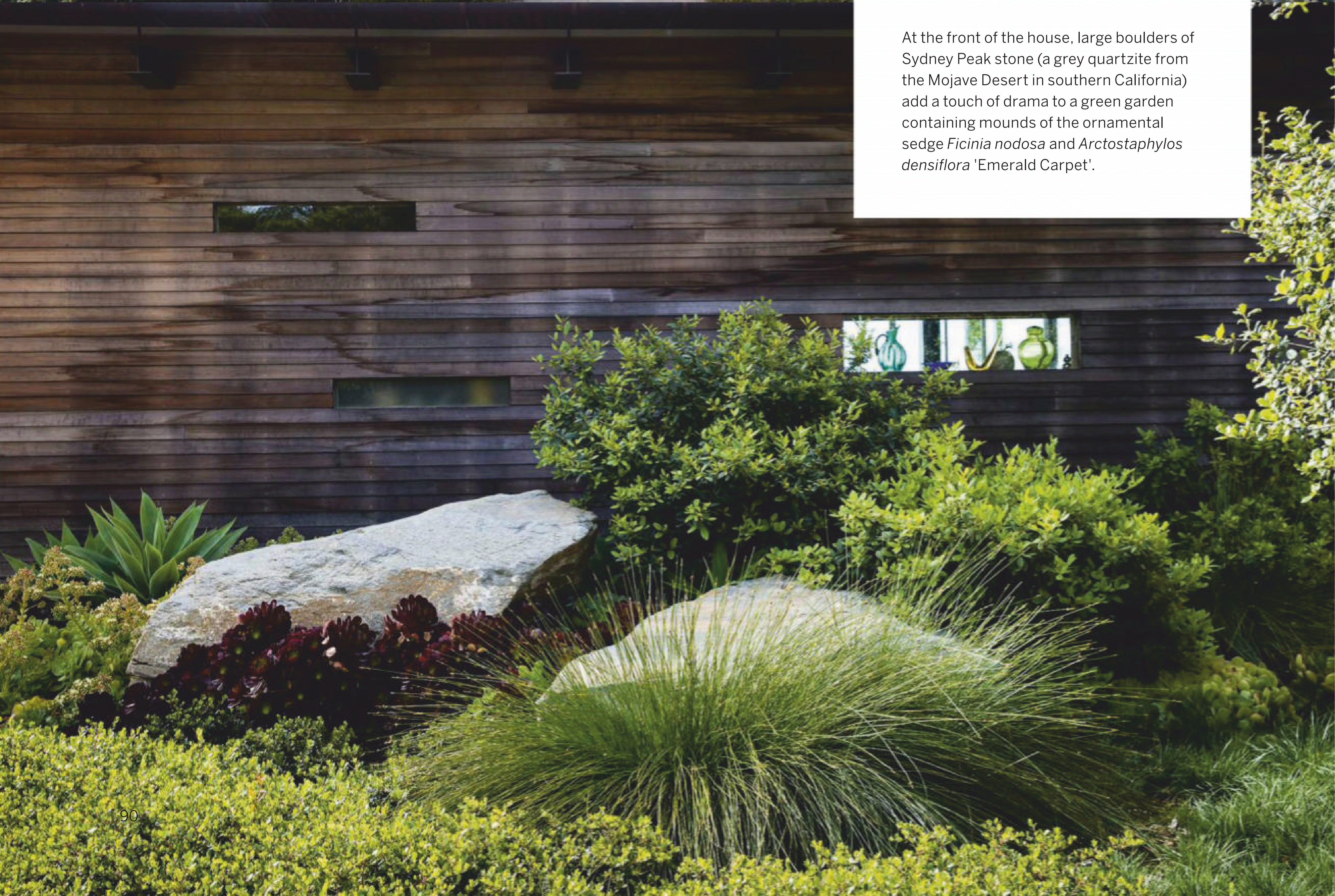
The pool is edged with quartz schist stone and a terrace of concrete bands interplanted with *Dymondia margaretae*. Stainless-steel railings are fronted by a bed of *Salvia lanceolata*, *Verbena* and *Koeleria macrantha*. Tinted concrete steps lead to a spa terrace above the stacked-stone water wall.

MANY AREAS ON SEVERAL LEVELS, FACING DIFFERENT VIEWS, SATISFY THE NEED FOR ENTERTAINING AND LEISURE SPACES

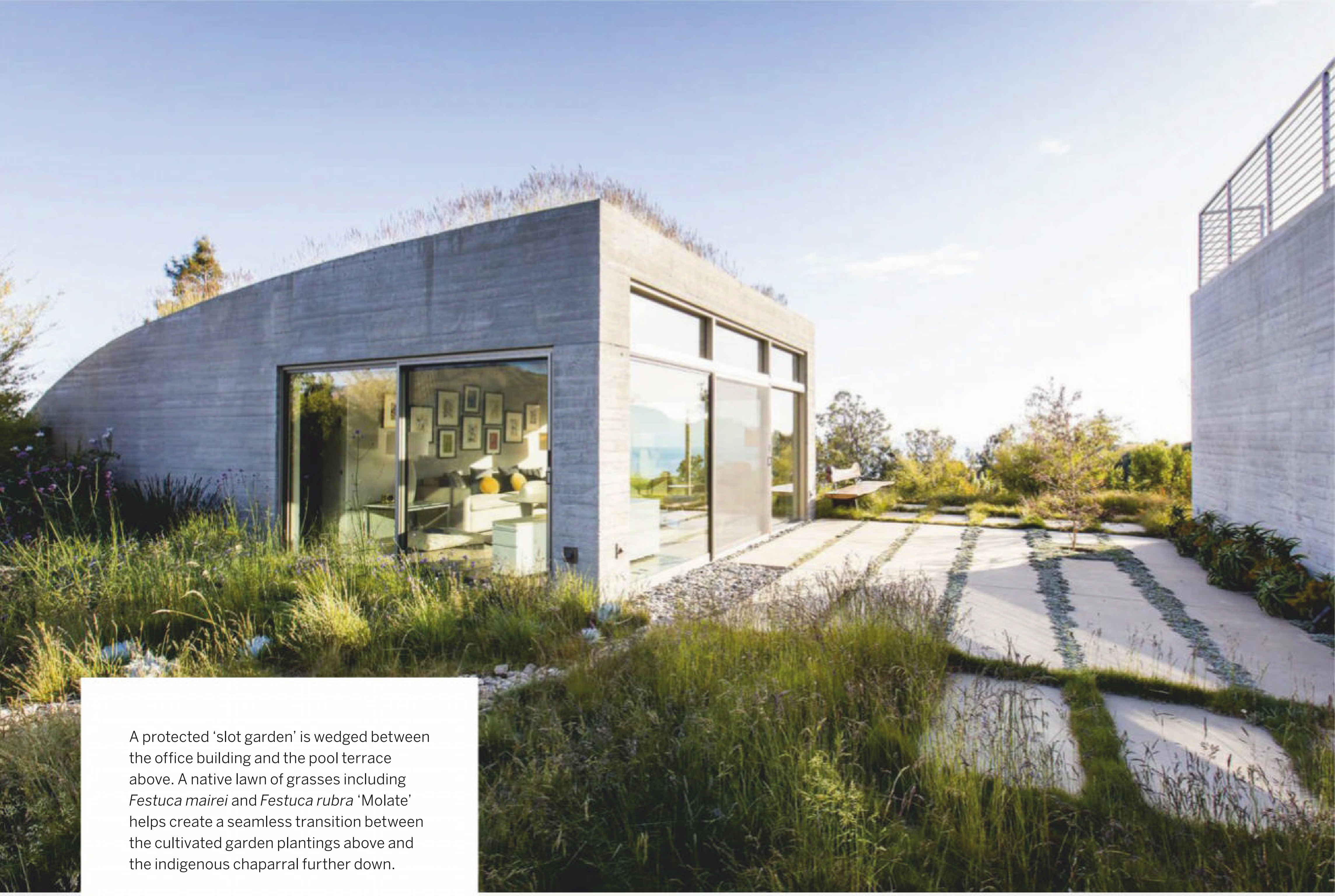




The poured-concrete terrace outside the living room provides a perfect place to relax under the shade of coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). To the side, a path of concrete bands has joints planted with several cultivars of *Koeleria macrantha* that blend with the clump of *Thamnochortus insignis*.

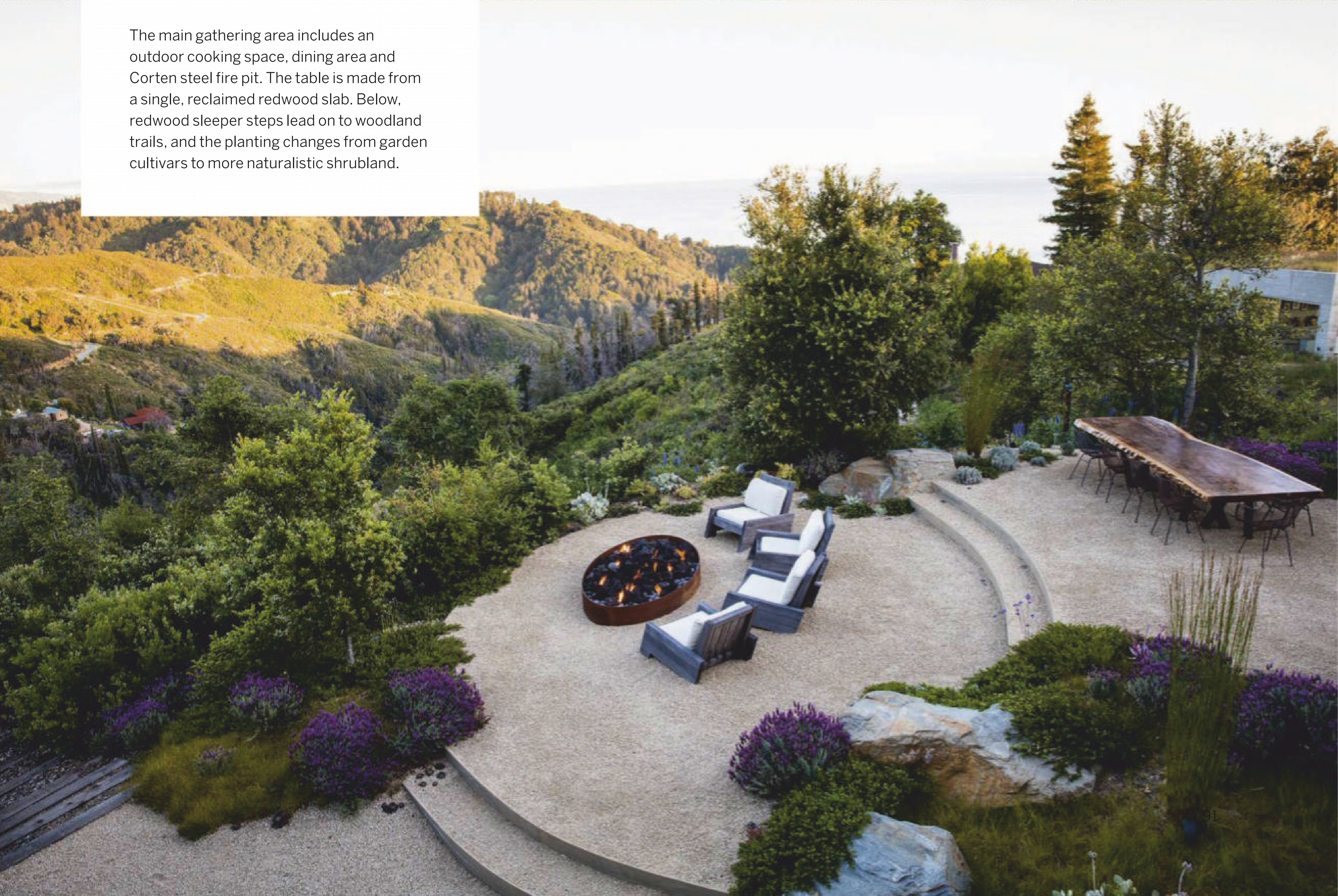


At the front of the house, large boulders of Sydney Peak stone (a grey quartzite from the Mojave Desert in southern California) add a touch of drama to a green garden containing mounds of the ornamental sedge *Ficinia nodosa* and *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Emerald Carpet'.



A protected ‘slot garden’ is wedged between the office building and the pool terrace above. A native lawn of grasses including *Festuca mairei* and *Festuca rubra* ‘Molate’ helps create a seamless transition between the cultivated garden plantings above and the indigenous chaparral further down.

The main gathering area includes an outdoor cooking space, dining area and Corten steel fire pit. The table is made from a single, reclaimed redwood slab. Below, redwood sleeper steps lead on to woodland trails, and the planting changes from garden cultivars to more naturalistic shrubland.



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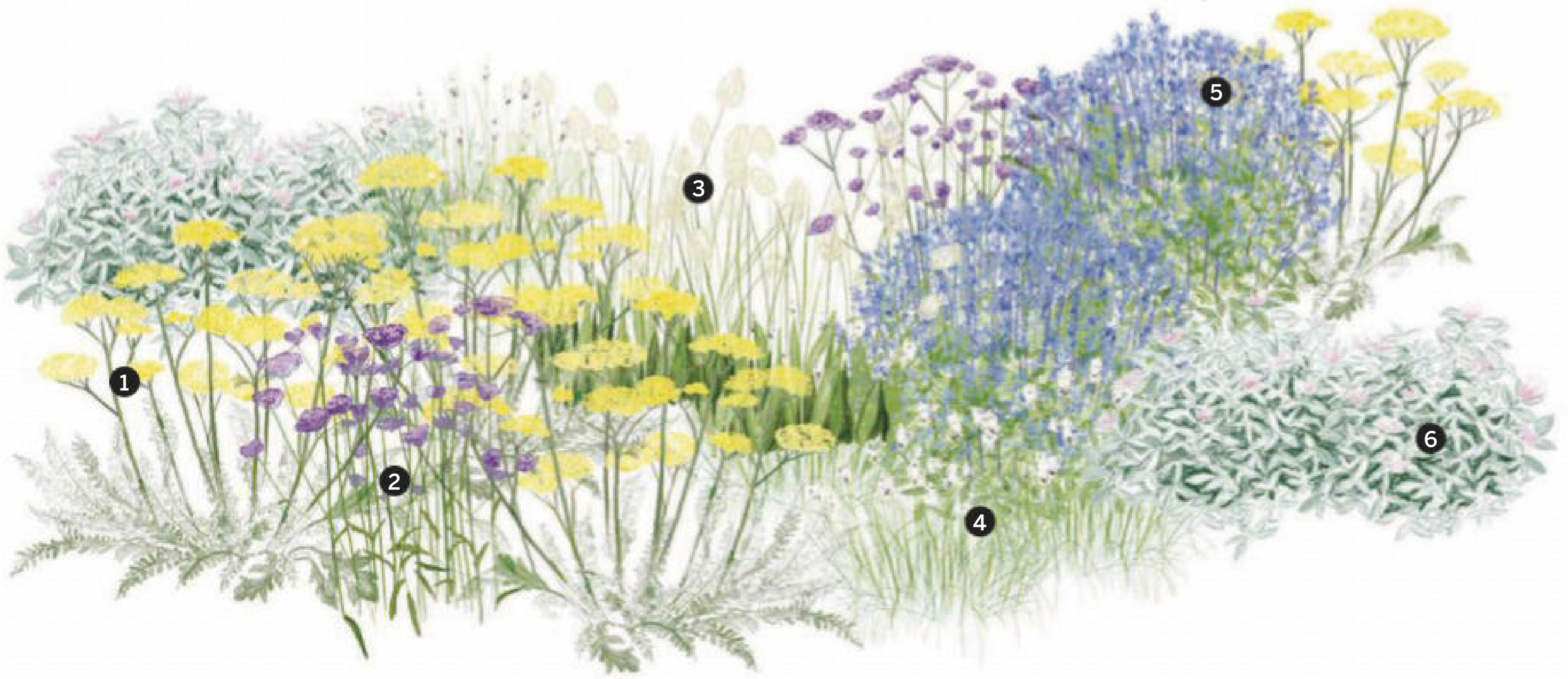
Planting ideas

Three plantings plans for three different aspects, using combinations that will create beautiful, healthy plant communities and provide a long season of interest

WORDS CHRIS MARCHANT ILLUSTRATIONS SCOTT JESSOP



Step-through scree

This combination of resilient plants that require little water and nutrients will thrive with minimal intervention, using mainly perennials that retain secondary interest for later in the season, with the addition of a species tulip to bring the season forward. It would work well for a sunny front garden, possibly surrounding steps to the front door, but could easily be scaled up to form a larger gravel garden.

PLANT LIST

1 *Achillea* 'Taygetea'
Flat heads of creamy yellow flowers age to a more intense golden hue and create an attractive contrast to the grey-green foliage. Cut back after flowering to encourage basal regrowth and strengthen the plant before winter cold. 50-60cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b†.

2 *Verbena bonariensis* 'Lollipop'
A diminutive form of *V. bonariensis,* with sturdy, square-section stems and branched structure. Lavender blue flowerheads develop in June and persist throughout the summer. 50-60cm. RHS H4, USDA 7a-11.

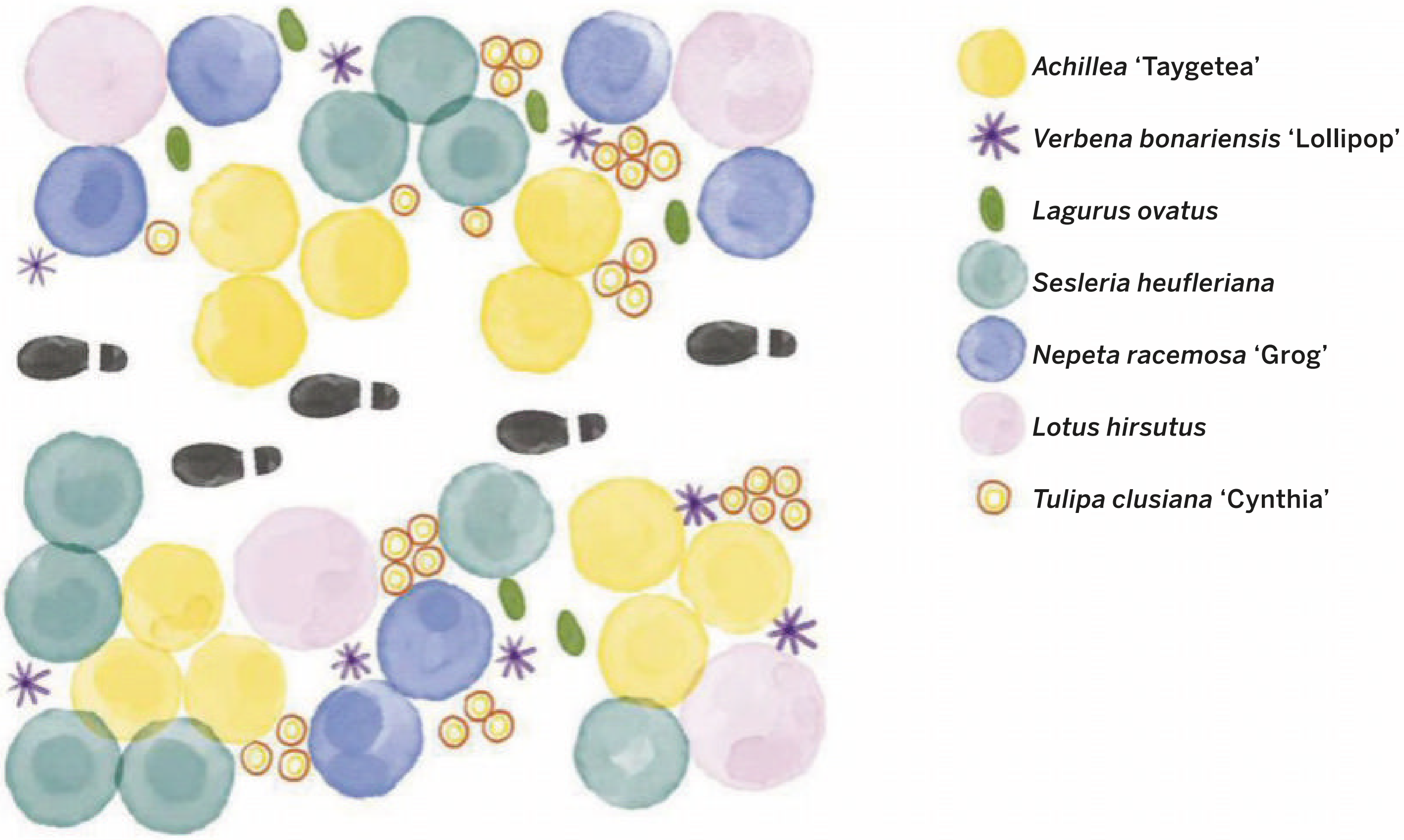
3 *Lagurus ovatus*
An annual grass that is noted for its attractive, silky, silver pom-pom flowers that are excellent when used as cut flowers. These flowers develop throughout June and July, giving rise to its more common name of bunnytail grass. Can be direct sown in patches into raked and disturbed, well-drained, sandy soil. 50cm. RHS H4.

4 *Sesleria heufleriana*
Silvery green mounds of foliage support a porcupine of striking, black flowerheads in early spring. Warmer weather encourages stems to elongate and flowerheads open to creamy white. Requires only a brief comb through in February to remedy winter thatch. 30cm. RHS H4.

5 *Nepeta racemosa* 'Grog'
A popular catmint with attractive, lemon-scented foliage reputed to deter cats. A tidy, contained habit with all the high-nectar attributes of larger nepetas. Rich sky-blue flowers develop first in May, and again from July to September if cut back. 40cm.

6 *Lotus hirsutus*
An aromatic sub-shrub with shimmering soft grey foliage and pea-like, pink flowers in June. Blooms persist for weeks before giving way to shiny seedpods. Plants need only light pruning in the spring to retain shape. 45cm. AGM*. RHS H4.

***Tulipa clusiana* 'Cynthia' (not shown above)**
An April-flowering bulb to extend the period of interest in this scheme. Charming creamy yellow flowers, flamed coral red on outer petals, close at night to form coral torpedo buds, yet open to full splendour in response to sunshine. Long-lived and easily naturalised. 25cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 3a-7b.



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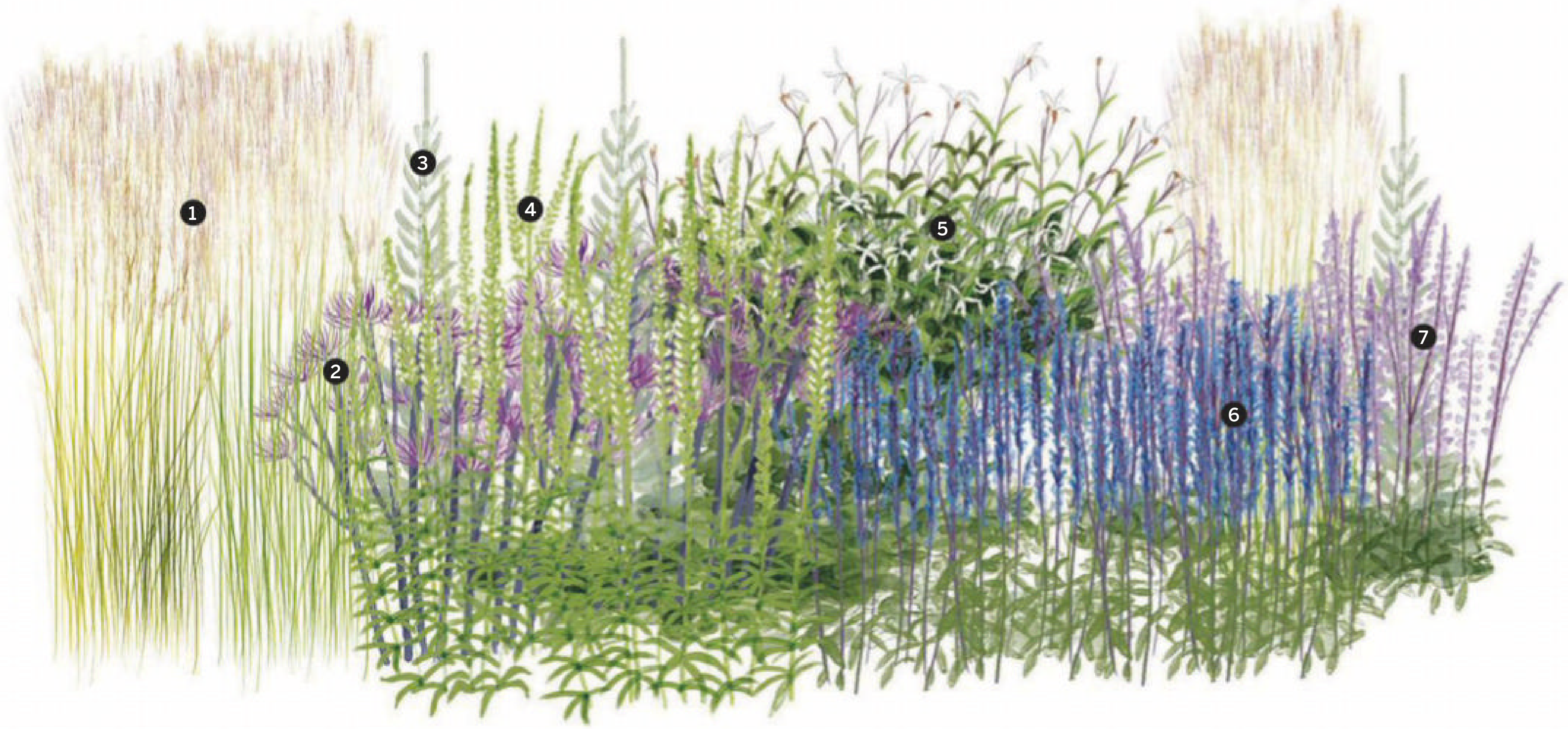
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.



Drawing the veil

Eating outside is one of life's great pleasures; the sense of escape heightened by enfolding the space with tall plants for privacy. This combination uses plants, such as early grasses and spires, with strong vertical emphasis, and comes into its own in May as days start to get longer and warmer. Many of the plants will continue flowering until August or September, just as the gladiolus comes into flower.

PLANT LIST

1 *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'
A solid mainstay among designers for reliable height and enduring structure. Foxy purple flower plumes in May to June gradually narrow, becoming stiffly upright and bleached to attractive straw colour as the season progresses. Structure endures late into winter. 1.7m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

2 *Thalictrum* 'Black Stockings'
Navy blue stems are a key feature of this cultivar. Thalictrums are early risers, this one attains around 1m by the end of May. Loose terminal panicles of rosy-lilac flowers are a magnet for bees and butterflies. Best grown up through light twiggy support to keep legs sturdy. 2m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.

3 *Verbascum lychnitis*
Handsome biennial verbascum delivering early summer height and developing a significant, pyramidal structure as summer wanes. Basal rosettes of silvered grey foliage rise up to support elegant spires of ivory flowers, each shielding a fragile heart of golden stamens. 1.2-1.4m.

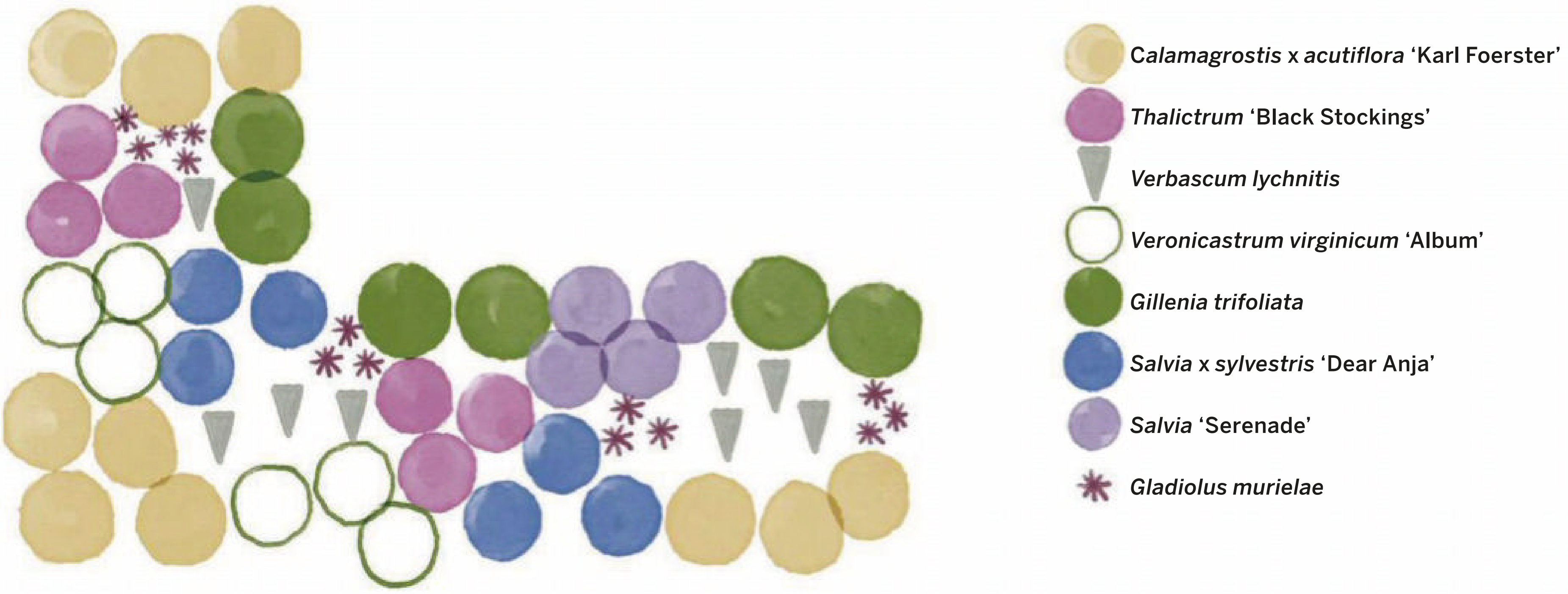
4 *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Album'
Veronicastrums offer slender, sturdy pinnacles of flower, yet occupy very little ground space, making them the perfect partner to early grasses. This white cultivar is the first to flower. As flower colour fades, remaining structure acquires warm bronze tones, equally attractive as a border component. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

5 *Gillenia trifoliata*
Fresh, trilobed foliage supports myriad white asymmetric flowers, which tremble and shake in the slightest breeze, adding airy volume to sunny borders. Despite its delicate flowers it is robust and strong. The foliage and seed capsules take on warm russet tones as summer progresses. 1m x 35cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

6 *Salvia* x *sylvestris* 'Dear Anja'
A Piet Oudolf selection with strong upright form, needing no staking when substrates are lean. Mid-blue, hooded flowers ascend dark-purple stems from June to August. Cut back for a second flush, taking the display late into September. 1m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

7 *Salvia* 'Serenade'
Flowers of rosy amethyst hue in stark contrast to stems of moody aubergine. The combination of these two salvias has a jewel-like intensity and being nectar-rich, draw beneficial pollinators. Responds well to cutting back. 75-90cm.

***Gladiolus murielae* (not shown above)**
Gloriously scented and truly exotic in appearance, with arching stems carrying bowed heads of star-shaped white flowers with burgundy zonal markings. Demands open, free-draining soil and resents winter wet. Best grown in pots and added to the garden in June. 1m. RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b.


Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
Thalictrum 'Black Stockings'
Verbascum lychnitis
Veronicastrum virginicum 'Album'
Gillenia trifoliata
Salvia x sylvestris 'Dear Anja'
Salvia 'Serenade'
Gladiolus murielae

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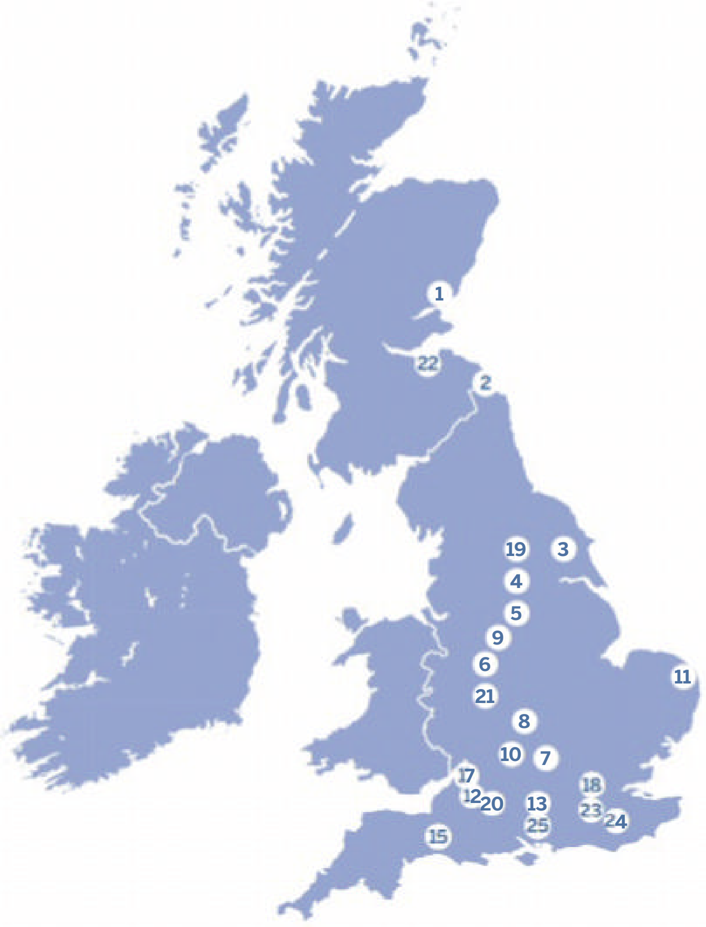

2019 workshop dates and venues: ***unless noted all days run from 10am–4.30pm.***

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY £130
Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire (6)
The Rabbit's Eye View – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY £140
The Coach House, Gloucestershire (10)
Working a Concept through to Completion – a garden design workshop with Annie Guilfoyle

TUESDAY 28 & WEDNESDAY 29 MAY €300
*please note Euros
Col de la Gineste & Mèze, Southern France
Lessons in the Landscape – a two-day workshop with Helen & James Basson & Olivier Filippi

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE £160 ⌂
Thenford Arboretum, Northamptonshire (8)
Choosing Trees with John Grimshaw

TUESDAY 18 JUNE £140 ⌂
Chatsworth Gardens, Derbyshire (9)
Beauty and Biodiversity, Water and Well-Being: Integrating Art and Ecology for Sustainable Gardens with Dr Nigel Dunnett

THURSDAY 20 JUNE £160 SOLD OUT
Hillside Gardens, Somerset (17)
Keying into Context – identifying and enhancing sense of place with Dan Pearson

FRIDAY 21 JUNE £160 SOLD OUT
Hillside Gardens, Somerset (17)
Keying into Context – identifying and enhancing sense of place with Dan Pearson

TUESDAY 25 JUNE £140 ⌂
East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens, Norfolk (11)
An introduction to Roses with Michael Marriott

TUESDAY 2 JULY £140
Bury Court, Hampshire (13)
Gardens through the Lens – a photography workshop with Jason Ingram

WEDNESDAY 3 JULY €150 *please note Euros
Vlinderhof, Utrecht, Netherlands
Piet Oudolf's Planting Style – How does he do it? with Noel Kingsbury

FRIDAY 5 JULY £150 (10.30AM–5PM)
Forde Abbey, Dorset (15)
Working with the Meadow Aesthetic – designing and managing perennial meadows with Dr Nigel Dunnett & Joshua Sparkes

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY £140
Green and Gorgeous, Oxfordshire (7)
Growing Perennials as Cut Flowers with Rachel Siegfried

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY £25.00 6.30PM ⌂
Sheffield Botanical Gardens, Yorkshire (5)
Film screening of 'Five Seasons – The gardens of Piet Oudolf'

THURSDAY 11 JULY £130 ⌂
Sheffield Botanical Gardens, Yorkshire (5)
Sketch with Confidence – developing drawing skills for garden designers with Liz Ackerley

TUESDAY 23 JULY £140 ⌂
Scampston Walled Garden, Yorkshire (3)
Plants for a Purpose – right plant, right place with Rosy Hardy

WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST £130 ⌂
Whitburgh House, Midlothian (22)
Planting Design and Contemporary Art with Elliott Forsyth

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER £140
Bury Court, Hampshire (13)
A Collaborative Approach to Design and Planting with Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER £150
Bury Court, Hampshire (13)
The Plantsman's year – a guide to seasonal interest in the garden, along with a propagation workshop with Tom Brown & Marina Christopher

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER £140 ⌂
East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens, Norfolk (11)
Designing with Colour with Nick Bailey

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER £140
Stillingfleet Lodge, Yorkshire (4)
Lose your Fear of Pruning with Timothy Walker

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER £140
Borde Hill, Surrey (23)
The Rabbit's Eye View – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER £140
Wildegoose Nursery, Shropshire (21)
Gardens through the Lens – a photography workshop with Jason Ingram

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER £140
Arvensis Perennials, Wiltshire (20)
Planting Design for the Public Realm – creating resilient and characterful planting for urban, public spaces with Giacomo Guzzon & Ton Muller

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER £140
Great Dixter, East Sussex (24)
The Rabbit's Eye View – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury and Fergus Garrett

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER £140 (11AM–6PM)
Yeo Valley Organic Gardens, Somerset (14)
The Ultimate Kitchen Garden with Mark Diacono & Lia Leendertz

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER £160
Iford Manor Gardens, Wiltshire (12)
Creative Containers for Seasonal Impact with Troy Scott-Smith

WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER £130
Alitex, Torberry Farm, Hampshire (25)
Growing Under Glass – edible and ornamentals with Sarah Wain

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER £140
Wildegoose Nursery, Shropshire (21)
The Rabbit's Eye View – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER £140 (10.30AM–5PM)
Forde Abbey, Dorset (15)
Garden Evolution – a design workshop with Joshua Sparkes & Annie Guilfoyle

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER £150
Horniman Museum, London (18)
Using Grasses and Perennials in the Modern Garden with Neil Lucas

MONDAY 14 OCTOBER £150
Beningbrough Hall Gallery & Gardens, Yorkshire (19) Contemporary Gardens in an Historic Setting – a design workshop with Andy Sturgeon

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER £140
Adderstone House, Northumberland (2)
Developing the Garden Narrative – a garden design workshop with Annie Guilfoyle and Sean Murray

FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER £45 (6.30PM)
Hospitalfield, Arbroath (1)
Supper and film screening of 'Five Seasons – The gardens of Piet Oudolf'

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER £150
Hospitalfield, Arbroath (1)
Beauty and Biodiversity, Water and Well-Being: Integrating Art and Ecology for Sustainable Gardens with Dr Nigel Dunnett

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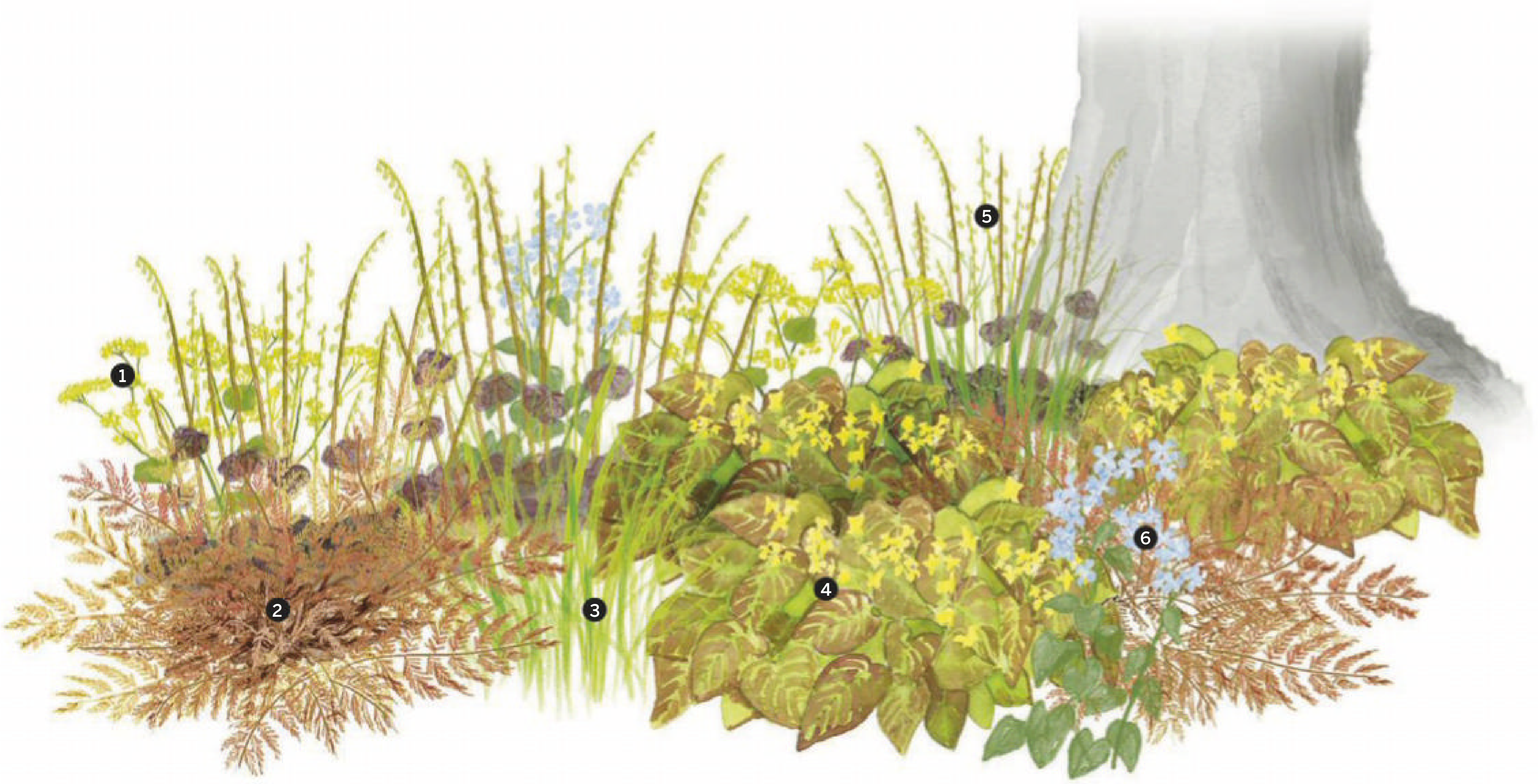


Beneath the canopy

A tree in any garden – large or small – is a positive feature. But planting beneath one can present challenges. This combination creates a woodland tapestry with texture and colour beyond the initial excitement of spring, and continues into September, with the addition of an autumn-flowering bulb. With dry, hostile conditions, it's important not to over tidy. Fallen leaf litter and accumulated organic debris will improve soil structure and moisture-retention, and provide a habitat for beneficial insects, drawing birds into the garden.

PLANT LIST

1 *Smyrnium perfoliatum*
Shady spaces benefit from an injection of acid-green or yellow to give the illusion of sunlight. Smyrnium delivers just that, rising through leaf litter to send up heads of lime-green flowering bracts. Short lived, but a reliable self-seeder. 65-70cm.

2 *Dryopteris erythrosora*
Precision fronds of coppery pink unfurl to an open vase-shaped structure. A striking contrast to the fresh greens and yellow of spring, picking up similar tones of the epimedium. Colouring subdues to a rich green later in the year, yet structure endures. Prefers moisture-retentive soil. 45-60cm. RHS H4, USDA 5a-8b.

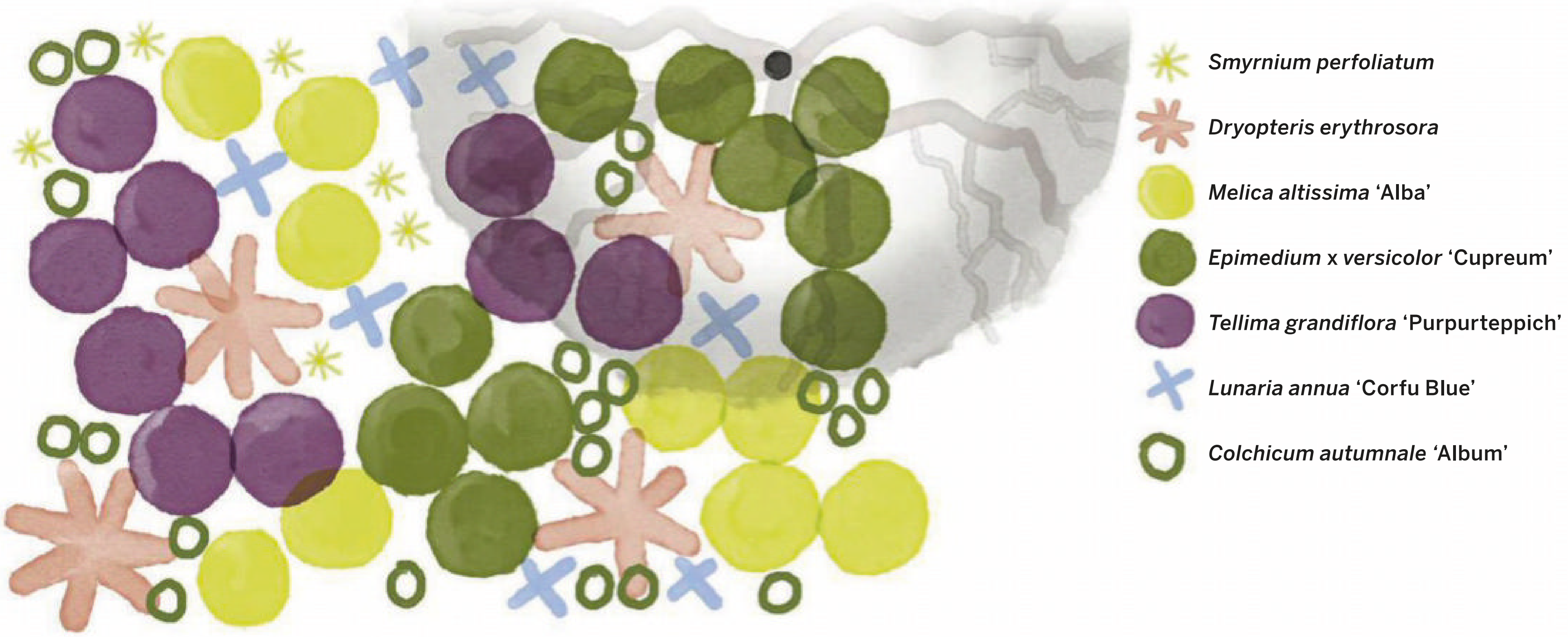
3 *Melica altissima* 'Alba'
Fresh, emerald-green foliage gives rise to slender arching stems, each supporting pendulous, loose sprays of bead-like, white flowers. Plants tremble attractively in the slightest breeze. 50cm. RHS H6.

4 *Epimedium* x *versicolor* 'Cupreum'
Semi-evergreen cultivar where fresh, spring foliage sports an attractive burgundy halo. Exquisitely shaped flowers of creamy yellow with coral red are held on open wiry stems. Trim old foliage early in the year to reveal new flowers. 30cm. RHS H7.

5 *Tellima grandiflora* 'Purpurteppich'
Handsome, richly coloured cultivar of this reliable groundcover. Sprays of bell-shaped, lime-green flowers in spring contrast with purple foliage that remains intact for a tidy winter display. 60cm. USDA 4a-7b.

6 *Lunaria annua* 'Corfu Blue'
The attractive, powder-blue flowers of this annual persist for many weeks on a well-branched sturdy plant. Tissue paper-thin, silver seedpods develop later, requiring minimal assisted scattering to perpetuate the presence for next year. 50cm.

***Colchicum autumnale* 'Album' (not shown above)**
Shady plantings generally focus on spring flowers ahead of full leaf-canopy formation. Precisely why this autumn bulb is invaluable for its contribution during otherwise challenging August to September. Goblets of white open to reveal golden stamens. Glossy foliage in spring. 25cm.


Smyrnium perfoliatum
Dryopteris erythrosora
Melica altissima 'Alba'
Epimedium x *versicolor* 'Cupreum'
Tellima grandiflora 'Purpurteppich'
Lunaria annua 'Corfu Blue'
Colchicum autumnale 'Album'

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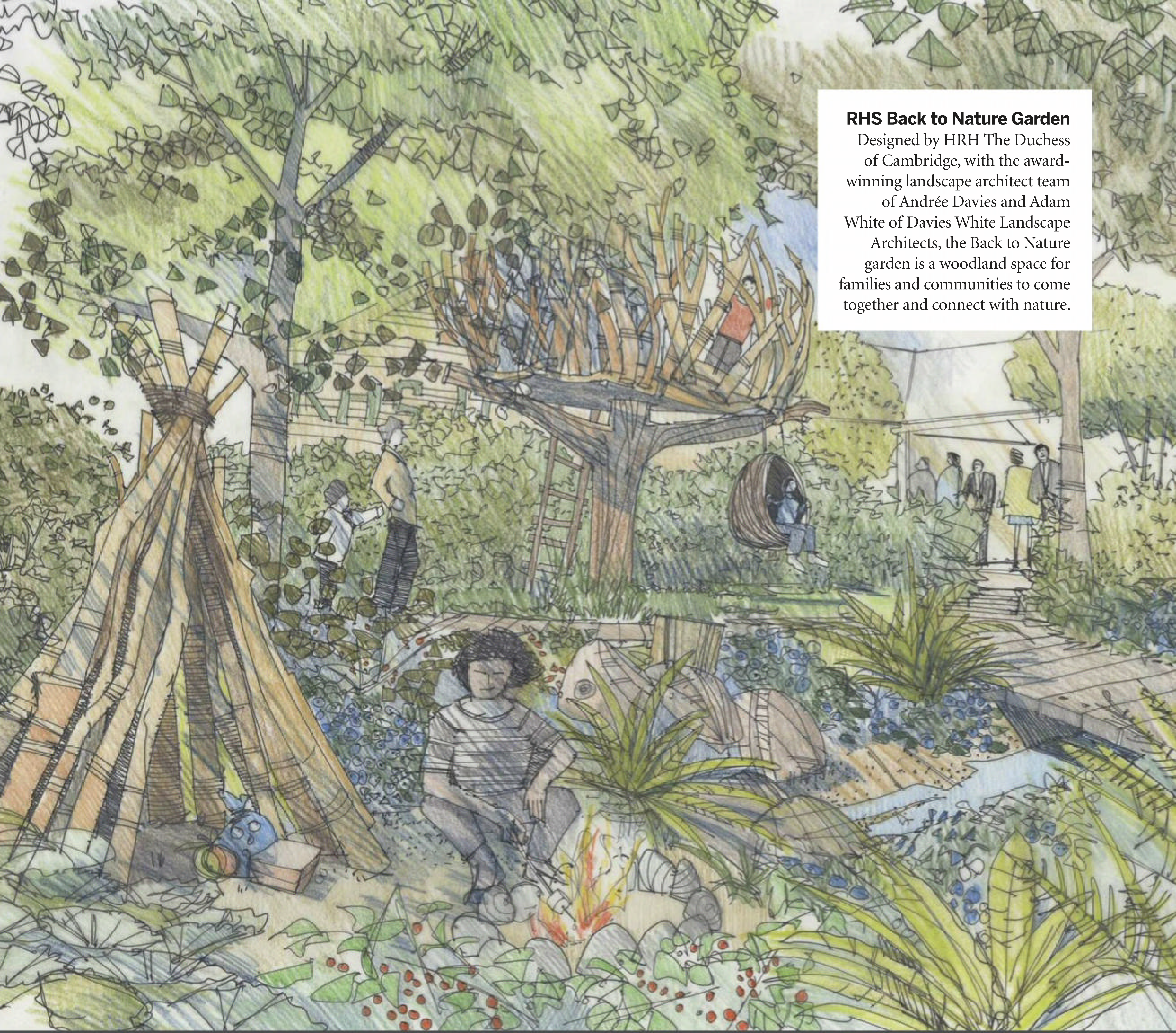

RHS Back to Nature Garden
Designed by HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, with the award-winning landscape architect team of Andrée Davies and Adam White of Davies White Landscape Architects, the Back to Nature garden is a woodland space for families and communities to come together and connect with nature.

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2019

Show details

Opening dates 21-25 May 2019.

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Contents

100 Designer profiles
We speak to some of the designers behind the most talked-about gardens on Main Avenue, and look at a selection of the best gardens in the Artisan and Space to Grow categories.

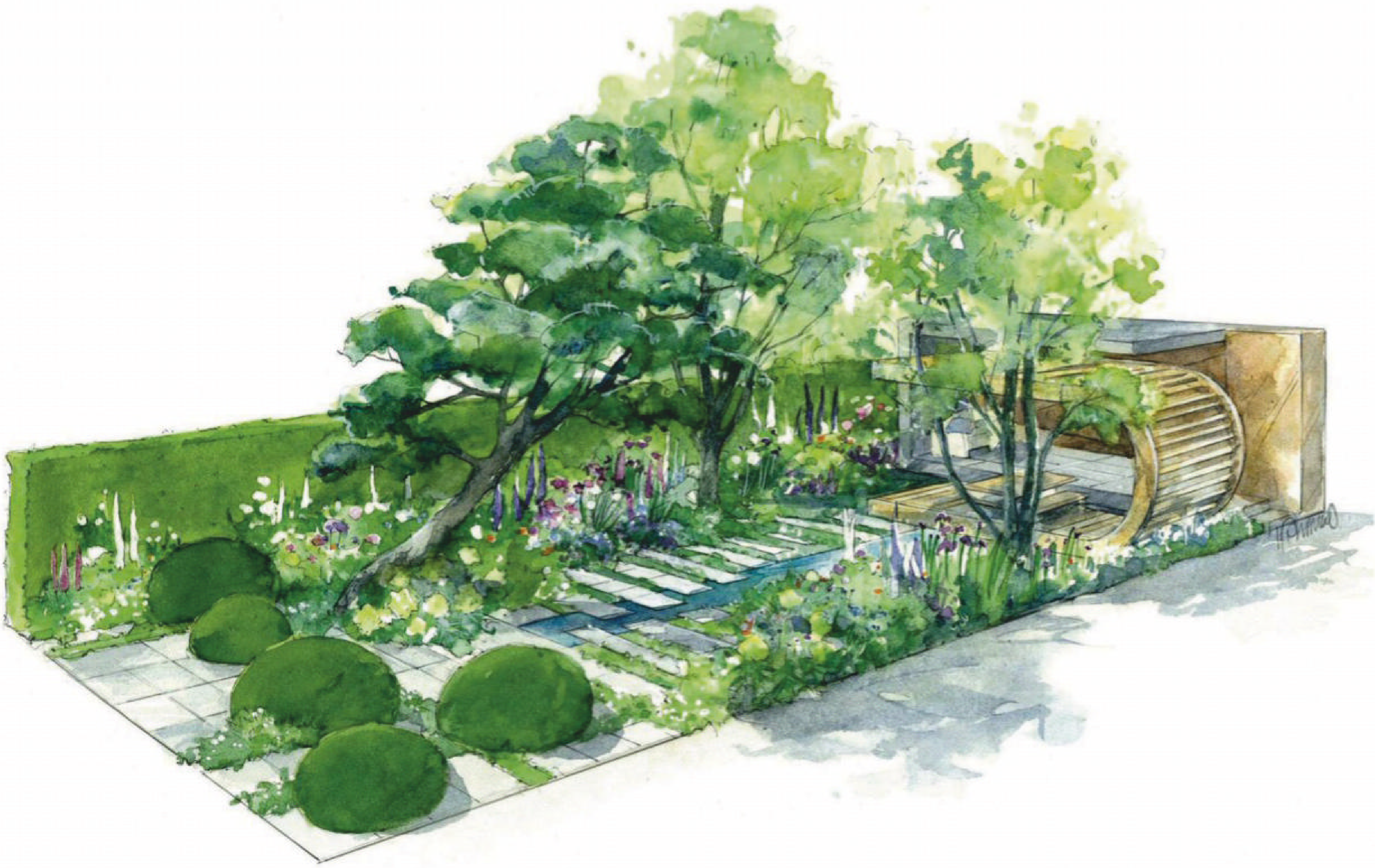
114 Critics' shortlist
Garden designers and critics tell us their picks for Best in Show and what they're most looking forward to.

116 What else?
Feature gardens, products and plants to look out for in the Great Pavilion and beyond

DESIGNER PROFILES

A first look at the key gardens and their designers at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show

WORDS ANNIE GATTI



Chris Beardshaw

PROFILE

Name Chris Beardshaw.

Chelsea history Seven gold medals including Best in Show in 2018, two silver gilt, one bronze and four People's Choice.

Plot MA323.

Sponsor Morgan Stanley.

Contractor Chris Beardshaw Ltd.

Theme An exploration of maintaining the tradition of creating beautiful, herbaceous-rich spaces while managing resources sensitively.

Contact chrisbeardshaw.com

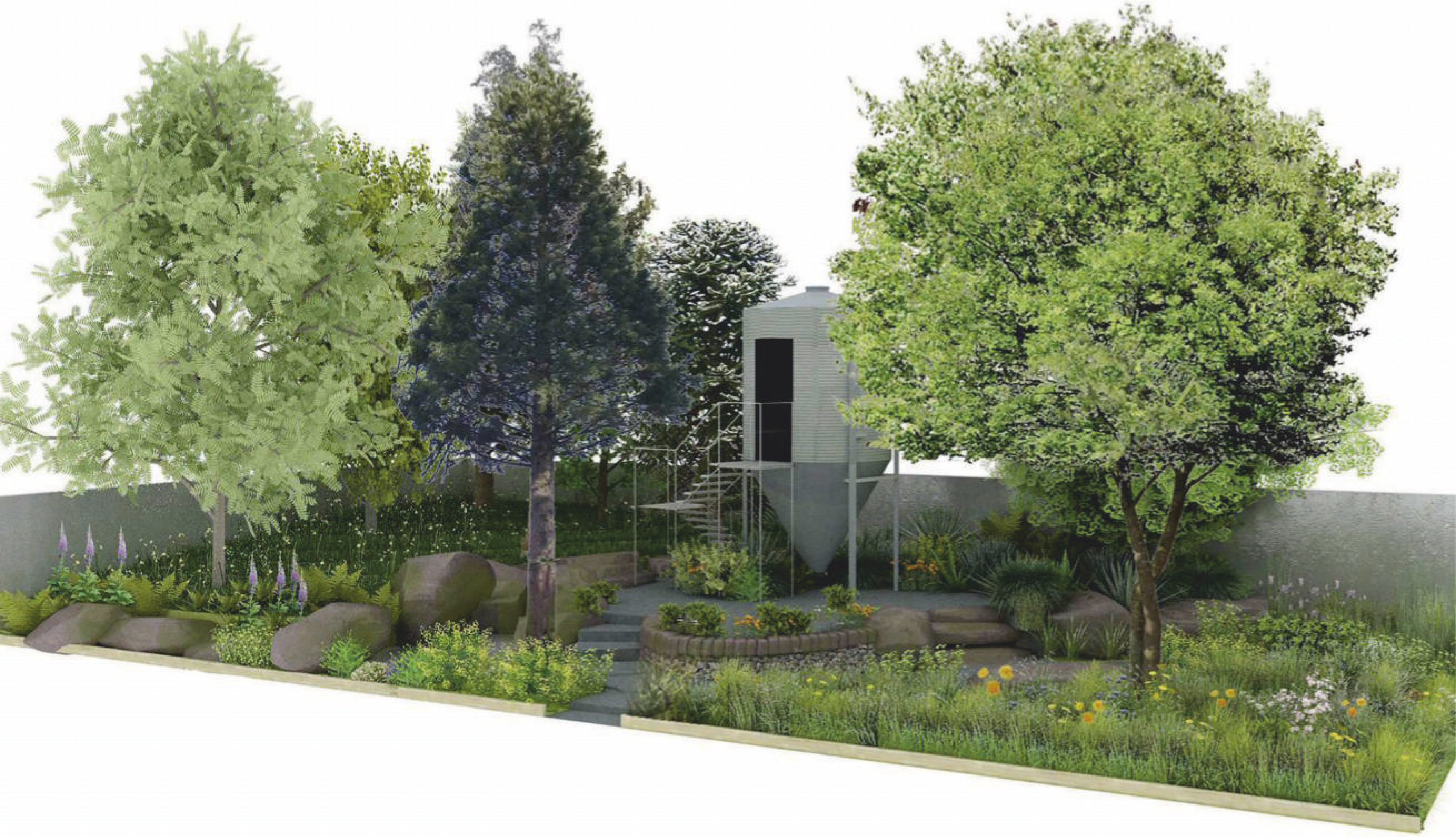
"Last year it was 20 years since my first show garden and yet it always feels like starting again. We're responding to trends, a new client brief and each year we find the season is different with plants rarely flowering in the same sequence, so we're constantly adjusting.

"For this garden we want to encourage every gardener to consider the process of 'how' we garden. I've taken inspiration from the aesthetic of the traditional English garden, which dates back to the 1850s, of deep herbaceous borders punctuated by shrubs and framed by topiary, but we've engrained it with a modern consideration of environmental footprint, so that we start to think about how we minimise both the input and output.

"Our plants have all been grown in recyclable, taupe pots, we've used green waste from gardens in our compost. The paving is porcelain, which has less of an environmental impact than natural stone, yet has a similar visual effect, and our garden structures use some of the latest techniques and materials, such as micro-plaster and veneered slate.

"For the planting I've focused on plant communities that are mutually compatible so as to give a longer season of interest and, more importantly, can support each other structurally. Even the shape of the drifts and heights have been adjusted to follow linear contours that are more robust and don't need much pruning or staking.

"My key tree is a large *Pinus nigra*. It was going to be thrown away as it was wind blown and bent but its more sinuous shape creates impact and suits our message perfectly."



Sarah Eberle

PROFILE

Name Sarah Eberle.

Chelsea history Ten gold medals, one silver gilt, Best in Show in 2007 and 2016, People's Choice 2016.

Plot MA322.

Sponsors William Robinson Gravetye Charity, Gravetye Manor Hotel and Restaurant, Kingscote Estate, the Forestry Commission and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Contractor Crocus.

Theme A rural, species-rich and resilient garden.

Contact 01256 895754, saraheberle.com

KATERINA RAFAJ

"The brief from the Forestry Commission was to address the need to build resilient landscapes and gardens in the face of threats from climate change, and pests and diseases. A further requirement was for the garden to link to William Robinson and his Gravetye estate, which he bequeathed to the state forestry. Robinson loved native plants, but believed that you could use exotics as well, in a naturalistic way. That is the core inspiration for this garden.

"The garden needed, in my mind, to be located in a rural setting. I've taken a redundant silage clamp as my concept and set it in a woodland edge. At 6m high, the silage clamp looms over the showground, making a striking vertical element. We are converting it into an office/laboratory, accessed by an external staircase, but we're keeping its original graffiti. At the back of the garden, woodland planting slopes up to the side boundary – a steel post and timber construction used in silage clamps, under the canopy of mature trees. This gives way to a rock face and a dry zone, planted with a mix of succulents and natives, that reflects the increasingly arid summers we are having. To the front is a wetland area that is separated from a mixed species meadow by a gravel path.

"To get the breadth needed to accommodate our selection of mature trees – the list includes species that could become the timber trees of the future, such as *Cryptomeria japonica* and *Juglans nigra* – our plot is 12m wide rather than the standard 10m." ▷

Thank you, Sylvia

Sylvia left a gift in her Will to help conquer Stroke

The first we knew of Sylvia was when we received notification of the gift she'd left us in her Will. Shortly after, a beautiful story of a much-loved woman began to unfurl.

Friends remembered Sylvia's kind-heart and her wish to help others. She spent part of her adult-life caring for her mother, and developed a passion for medicine. Becoming a medical secretary was her next step and, in the course of her career, she discovered the devastating impact a stroke could have on people and their families. She saw that research and treatment were vastly under-funded, and she decided to remember the Stroke Association in her Will.

Sylvia's gift has helped fund our work to conquer stroke. She's supported research to prevent and treat stroke, and she's helped care for survivors. And that's something you can do too – in the same way.

If you would like to learn more about remembering the Stroke Association in your Will, please get in touch.

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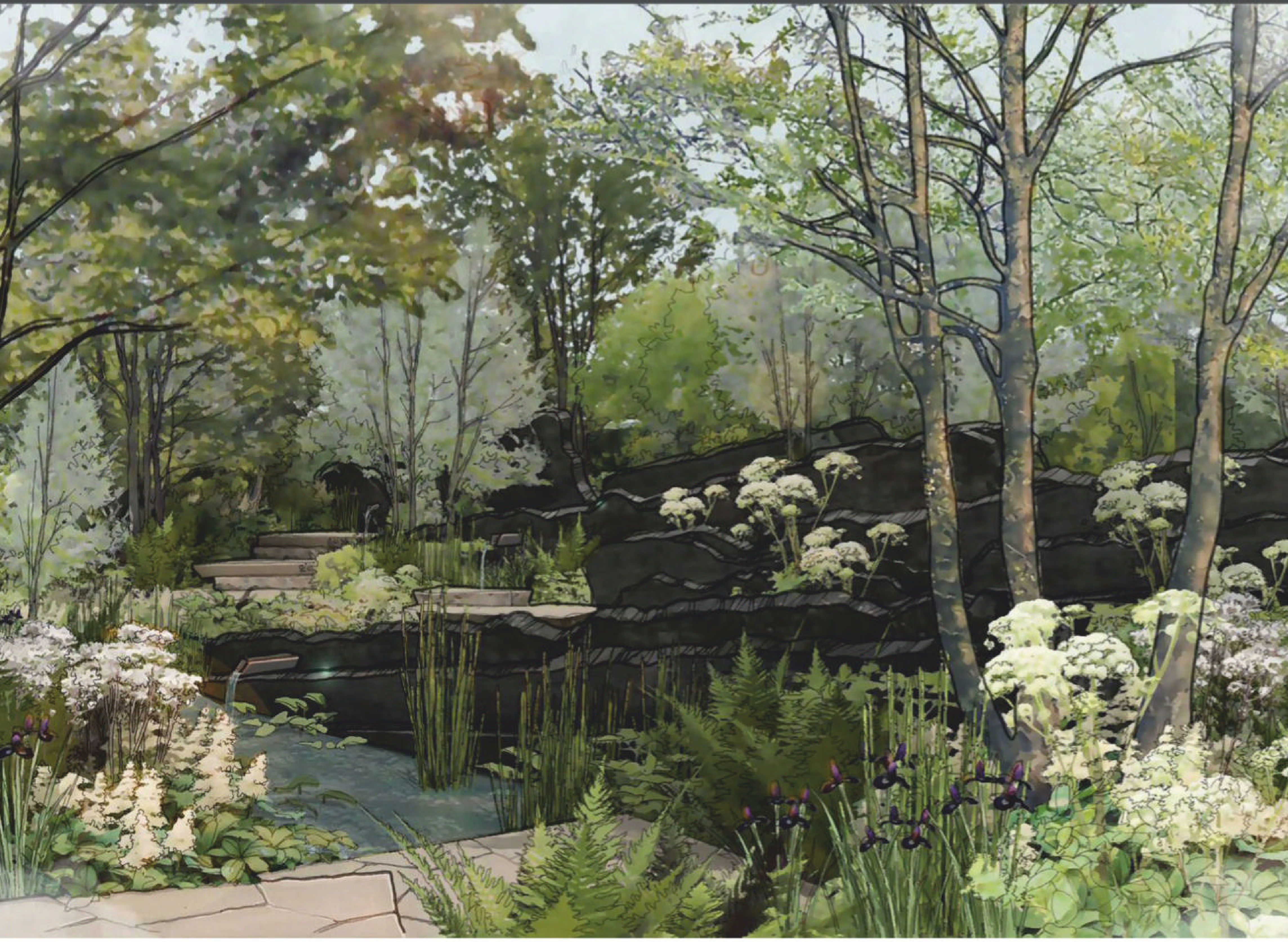


Andy Sturgeon

PROFILE

Name Andy Sturgeon.

Chelsea history Seven gold medals including Best in Show in 2010 and 2016.

Plot MA320.

Sponsor M&G Investments.

Contractor Crocus.

Theme A woodland garden that shows the beauty of plant succession, enhanced by rock-like timber sculptures.

Contact 01273 672575, andysturgeon.com

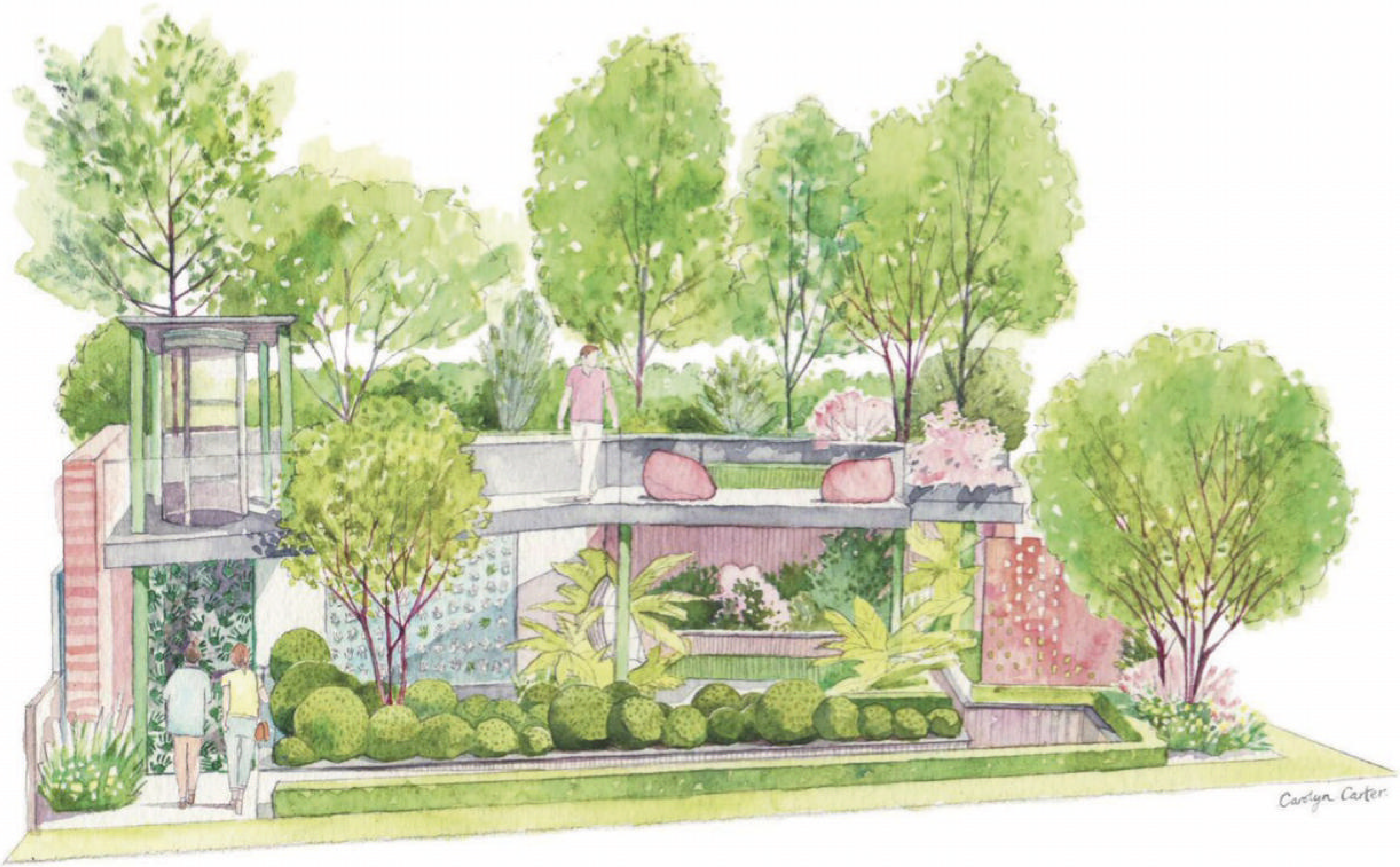
CHAZ OLDHAM

"I was really taken by the drama of stratified rocks on a beach in Australia, and the way that plants had colonised the shoreline. Plant succession is one of the things I remember really understanding at school. This garden is not meant to be natural habitat in any way, but like most of the gardens I design, it takes a lot from nature.

"I'm aware that many people can relate to woodland and edge-of-woodland planting – it's all about those greens, which are deeply calming in any garden and especially so during Chelsea when everything is so fresh.

"The rock strata are suggested by carved fins of burned timber that run across the garden in different lengths from a couple of metres to about 11m long, and in the same direction. At nearly 2m high, they emphasise the change in level from the clearing, which has stone seats, to the opposite boundary. Like an auricula theatre, each fin provides a dark backdrop for plants such as *Equisetum* that will stand about 1.3m tall. I'm trying to invent a new sort of woodland palette that doesn't occur anywhere in the wild, but feels as if it could. It includes some unusual aspidistras, primulas and *Gunnera killipiana*, which has bronze-coloured foliage.

"Narrow, gravel paths wind through the planting, and water trickles down to a sunken pond near the front. To create the sense of woodland, I'll be using quite a lot of trees. The most dominant will be three multi-stemmed hornbeams, one of which will be right at the front. I want people to feel close to it." ▷



Kate Gould

PROFILE

Name Kate Gould.

Chelsea history Five gold medals, three Best in Category, two silver gilts, one silver. This is Kate's first Main Avenue show garden at Chelsea.

Plot MA336.

Sponsor Greenfingers Charity.

Contractor Kate Gould Gardens.

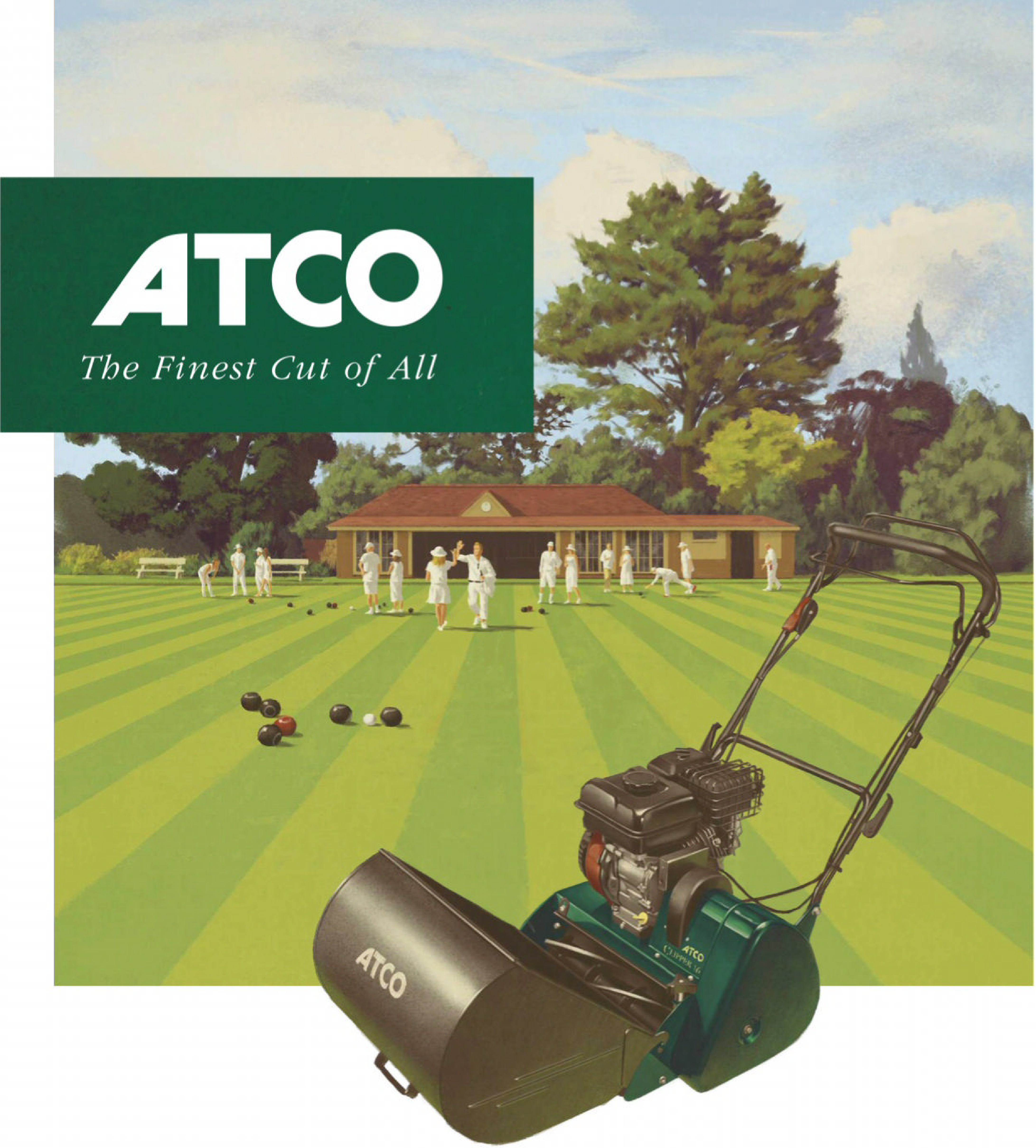
Theme A tranquil garden with original features for life-limited children, and their families and carers.

Contact 01923 839733, kategouldgardens.com

"This is a children's garden, but it's not a garden for play. The moments that life-limited children have with their families are precious and this garden is about creating a special place for family time. It is built across two levels, allowing us to screen the Great Pavilion, but also opening up design opportunities. Children who are confined to bed spend a lot of time looking up, and a cargo net fixed at one end of the upper deck provides a place for a child to lie and look up at the sky. The underside of this deck will also be fitted with lights and speakers that can be triggered by interactive buttons.

"Although the garden is only 10m deep by 15m wide, we are hoping to create a sense of space and depth. There's a sloped walkway that sweeps across from left to right past a raised bed planted with a multi-stemmed tree and blobby waves of clipped evergreens such as yew, hornbeam and *Pittosporum*. Turn around and the walkway slopes down past hardy tropical plants to a water feature fitted with a series of moving green hands, conjuring up the famous Greenfingers Charity logo of a child's handprint in green paint. Linking the two levels is a water-operated lift that was inspired by architect Matthew Lloyd's water- and solar-powered lift created on the Duke of York Steps on the Mall for the London Festival of Architecture 2010.

"The planting will be very green and textural, and offset by whites and yellows. We're planning to use groups of *Choisya* 'Greenfingers' (a new cultivar with longer leaves) on both floors to add evergreen bulk." ▷



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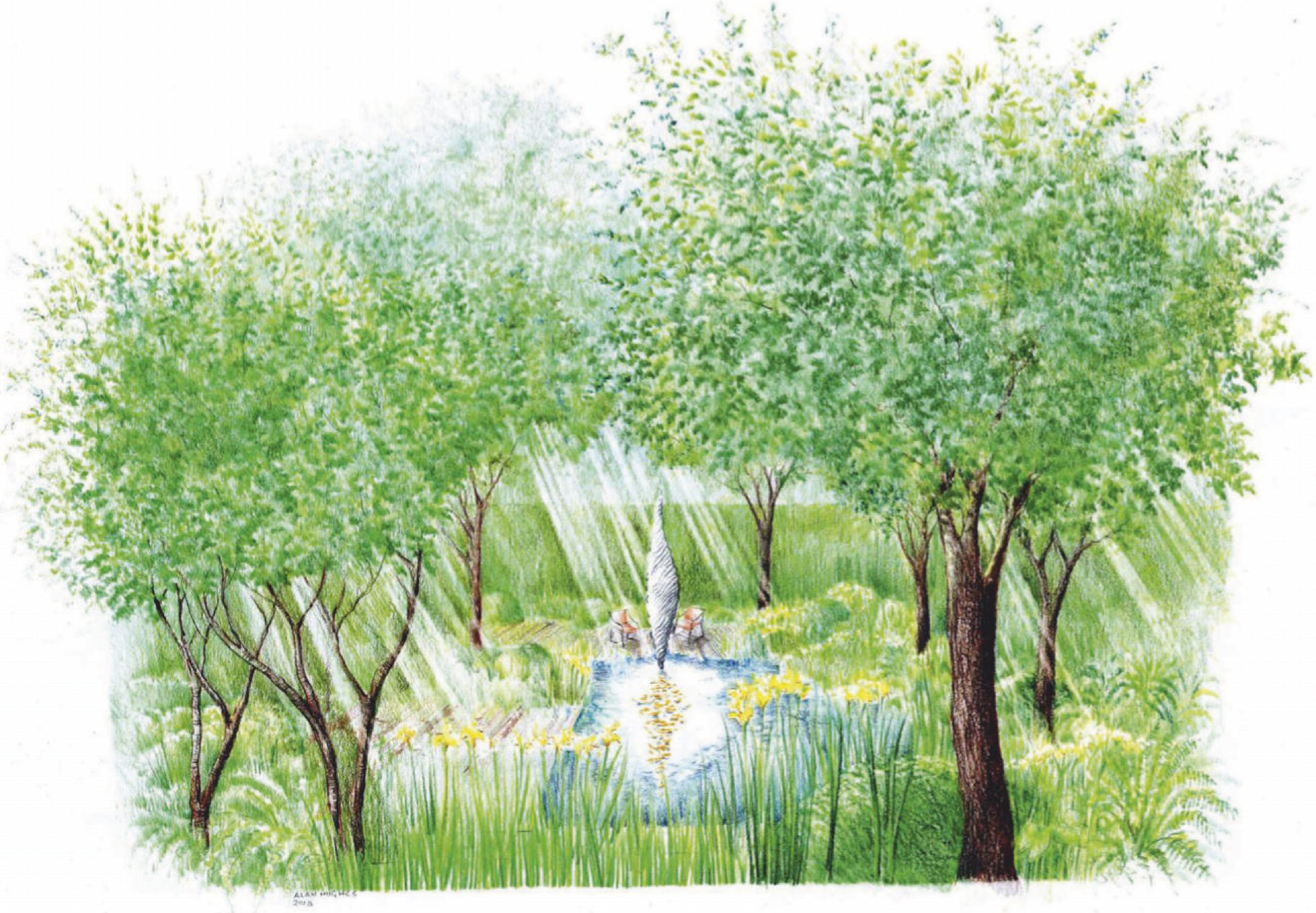


Andrew Duff

PROFILE

Name Andrew Duff.

Chelsea history This is Andrew's first Chelsea show garden.

Plot MA321.

Sponsor Savills and David Harber.

Contractor Dan Flynn, Gardenlink.

Theme A beautiful and biodiverse woodland glade garden for a city home, underpinned by sustainability and featuring a woodland-inspired installation.

Contact 07505 070226, andrewduffgardendesign.com

MARK BOLTON

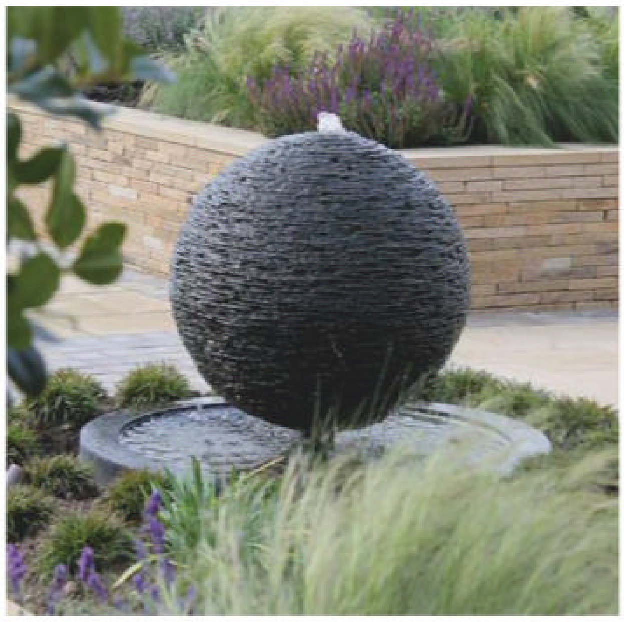
"A couple of years ago, I was discussing with the late garden and landscape designer John Brookes the possibility of re-establishing his 1962 Chelsea show garden, which was a breakthrough as it was about creating a space for the client rather than just showing off horticulture. Sadly, John died before we could do it, but the fact that this garden is a woodland with native-esque planting is a tribute to John, whose design inspiration was derived from a woodland close to his home in West Sussex.

"My feeling at the moment is that people are a bit scared of gardens, that urban gardens are all about containers, clipped hedges and total control. With this garden, we're saying it's all right to just let things grow, to have trees overhanging water and let the leaves fall into it.

"But the garden also has a hidden agenda: everything, from the trees and plants to the green wall, is filtering polluting particles from the air and giving us oxygen, so the garden will be a really beneficial space to sit in. The rectilinear pool in the clearing is softened by reeds and yellow flag irises that also filter the grey water from the imaginary house.

"I wanted to evoke the feeling of walking through a woodland to a clearing where you stand still and allow yourself to look at the detail in the planting. The main sculpture in polished and matt bronze pulls your eye up towards the sky and its reflection on the water will be a series of leaves that ripple gently on the surface every now and again." ▷

James Parker Sculpture



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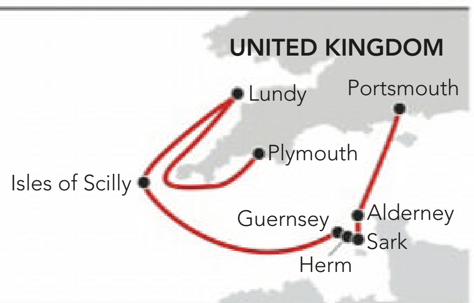
SPRING IN THE ISLES

A voyage to Lundy Island, the Isles of Scilly & the Channel Islands aboard the MS Serenissima – 10th to 18th May 2020



Sometimes, a few days away in a totally different environment is just what the doctor ordered, particularly if it does not involve flights. Join the MS Serenissima in Plymouth and visit some of the most idyllic islands including Sark and Alderney, Tresco, St Agnes and St Martin's, with their crystal-clear waters and fine white sandy beaches that would not disgrace a Caribbean island. We have also included a visit to Lundy Island where the puffins will be in abundance.

We will explore on foot amazing little-contained worlds as well as the stunning sub-tropical Abbey Gardens on Tresco. The MS Serenissima is the perfect small ship for such a venture. A maximum of just over 90 passengers allows us to explore places otherwise inaccessible to larger ships and, with our nimble Zodiac craft, we can land on out of the way coves and be footloose in a way that would be totally impractical for larger groups of passengers. Our time will be spent walking the nature trails, seeing the abundant birdlife and flowers and experiencing life in these remote communities.

The Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 Plymouth, England. Embark the MS Serenissima this afternoon in Plymouth. Transfers will be provided from Plymouth Railway station at a fixed time.

Day 2 Lundy Island. We have scheduled a whole day on Lundy, a remote island in the Bristol Channel. Although small, just three miles long by half a mile wide, its isolation has made it a home for a range of wildlife whilst it is home to a clutch of listed buildings and monuments. The towering cliffs and rocky shoreline are a haven for migrating seabirds, whilst Sika deer, red deer and Soay sheep can also be seen as we walk along its traffic-free lanes and paths. Spend the day being as active as you wish, maybe explore the wide bays and coves by way of hanging valleys, see ancient burial chambers, climb the lighthouse and buy the island's 'puffin stamps' at the shop.

Days 3 to 5 Isles of Scilly. We will spend three days exploring the Isles of Scilly. From our central anchorage, we will use the local tenders to visit a number of the islands in the group. We will visit traffic-free Tresco, walking its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. On St Agnes we find the most south westerly community in the UK. Surrounded by rocks and reefs this delightful tiny island offers marvellous coastal walks. Maybe join a boat trip to the island of Annet, the second largest of the uninhabited islands and a bird sanctuary. We are not allowed to land here but will cruise the coastline alive with puffins, European storm petrels and shag. We will tender ashore to Bryher, the smallest of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Take the chance to wander along the tracks that cross the island or take a stroll to one of the beautiful beaches. See the northernmost island of the group, St Martin's, a small island community of just 120 residents. Enjoy time to explore independently, climb one of the viewpoints for vistas over the islands and the offshore seal colonies or maybe join one of our birders on a guided walk.

Days 6 to 8 Guernsey, Herm, Alderney & Sark, Channel Islands. Over the next three days we will visit the islands of the Baliwick of Guernsey. On Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers' there will be the option of a walking tour of St Peter Port including a visit to Castle Cornet, a 12th century battlement which guards the entrance to St Peter Port harbour. Alternatively, enjoy a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes or join a cliff walk along the scenic coastline. We will sail the short distance to Herm, the smallest inhabited Channel Island and, at just one and a half miles long and half a mile wide, perfect for exploring on foot. On Alderney, visit the island's only town, St Anne, which has all the old-world charm of a Normandy village with tiny squares and pastel shaded cottages and shops. Maybe join a short walk to see the German fortifications or a longer walk with our naturalists heading to the cliffs to see the abundant birdlife. At Sark we will use our Zodiacs to land on this peaceful traffic-free island. Horse-drawn carriages take us along the narrow lanes as we see the narrow isthmus which joins Little Sark and Big Sark and the enchanting gardens at La Seigneurie.

Day 9 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning. A transfer will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway station at a fixed time.

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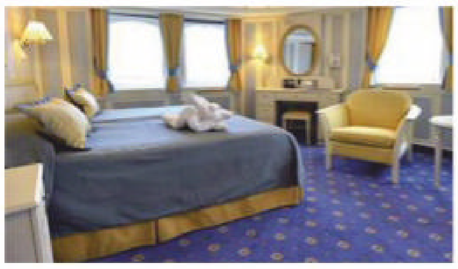

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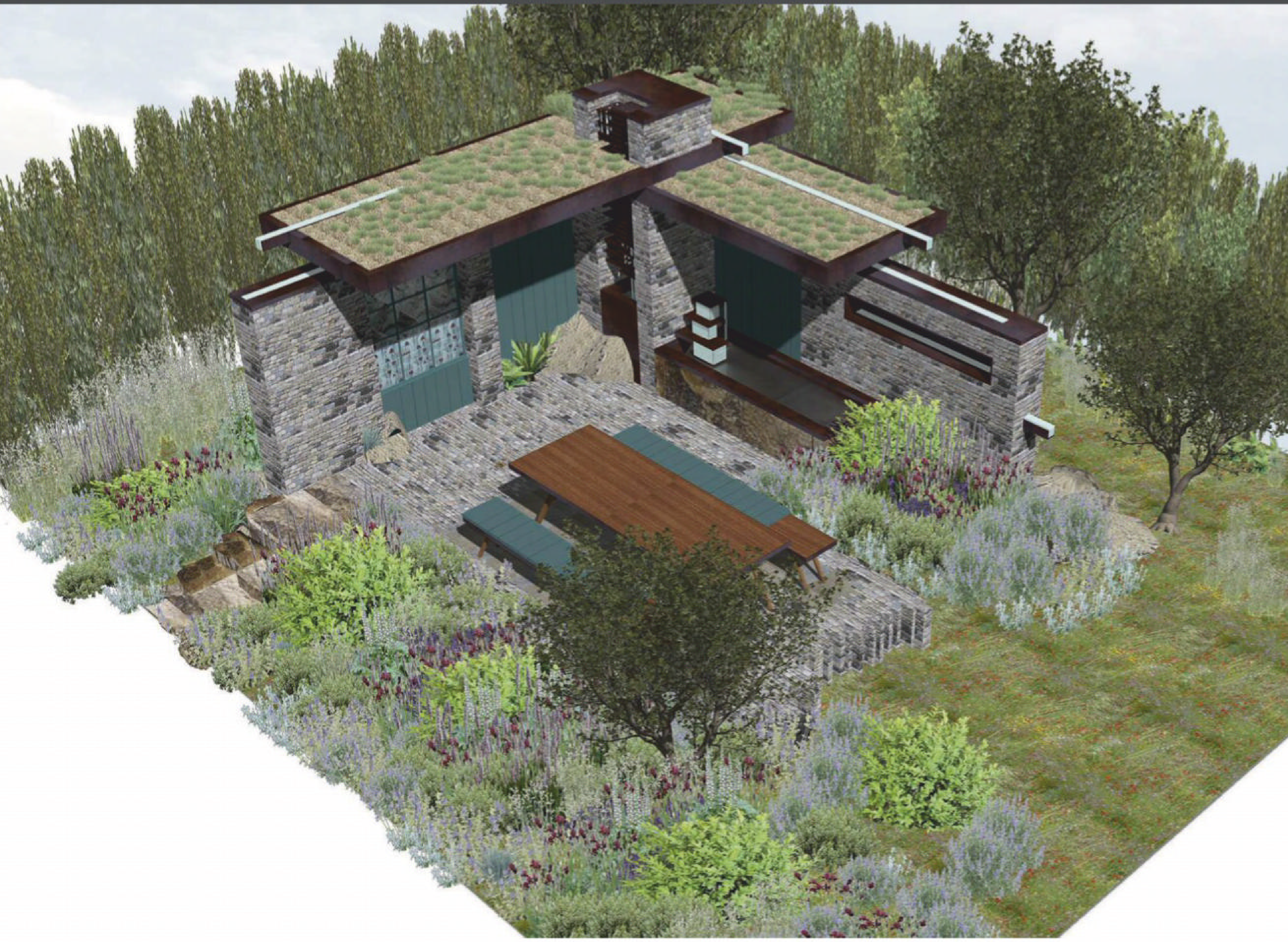


Helen Elks-Smith

PROFILE

Name Helen Elks-Smith.

Chelsea history Silver medal for Fresh Garden, 2014. This is Helen's first Main Avenue show garden.

Plot MA326.

Sponsor Warner's Distillery.

Contractor Bowles & Wyer.

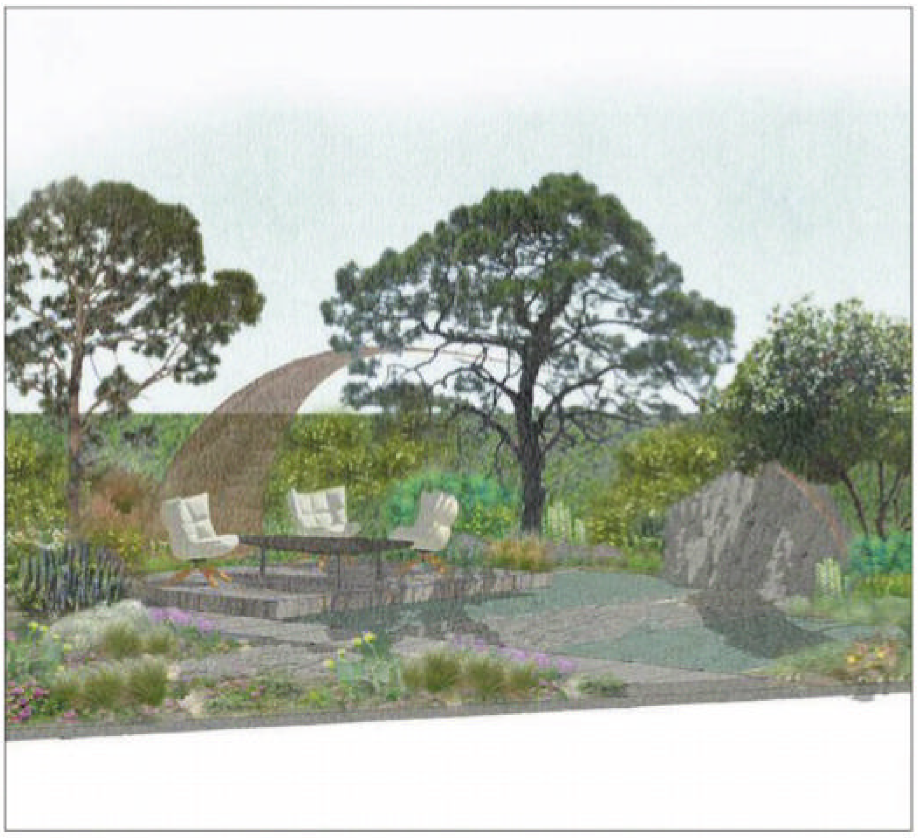
Theme A contemporary *hortus conclusus* that connects to the rolling Northamptonshire landscape through its soft planting, and which plays cleverly with water.

Contact 023 8178 2660, elks-smith.co.uk

"I am interested in patterns in landscapes and the way these patterns give you a sense of place. In Harrington in Northamptonshire, where Warner's Gin is made at Falls Farm, the patterns are created by the gently rolling land with hedgerows, a few large trees, drystone walls and the particular colour palette of the soil. Opposite the farm are the remains of a manor house and a garden that was once terraced. When I saw this, I thought that the contrast made by these really strong linear elements created a very interesting change of form.

"The buildings in our garden form a *hortus conclusus*, or enclosed garden, within the shelter of the native hedgerow. I have played with the way the water that's used for distilling the gin comes from aquifers. The land falls away and the water pops out of nowhere. You don't see the passage of water above ground in this garden; water is visible, but it doesn't flow from one place to another. Instead, it stops and starts along the cantilevered roofs of the buildings or spills from spouts in the drystone walls. The open chimney at the centre of the building is fitted with layers of copper fins, with holes in them. Water falls through these holes, suggesting the idea of filtration and distillation.

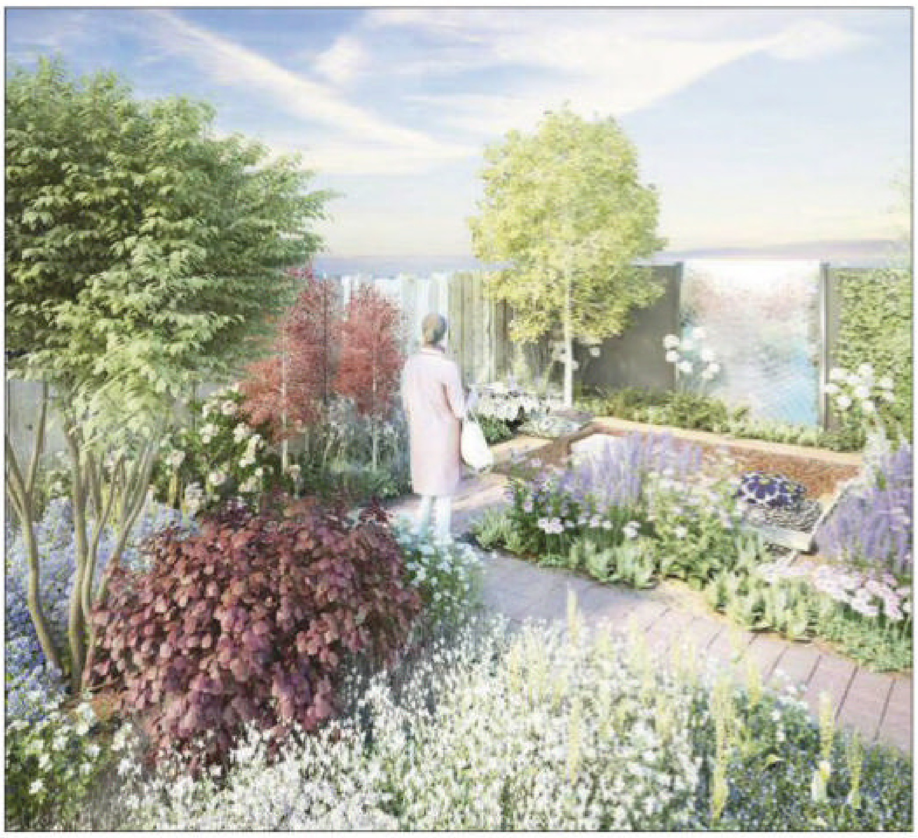
"Key structural plants include a gorgeous umbrella juniper, a large *Crataegus persimilis* 'Prunifolia', and shaggy yew pillows among the loose, relaxed ornamental planting. These, along with the bespoke table and chairs, counterbalance the weight of the building." ▷



Joe Perkins

Plot	RHW290, Space to Grow Garden
Sponsor	Facebook.
Contractor	The Outdoor Room.
Theme	A coastal garden using species from around the world that suggest the interconnectivity between our online and offline lives.

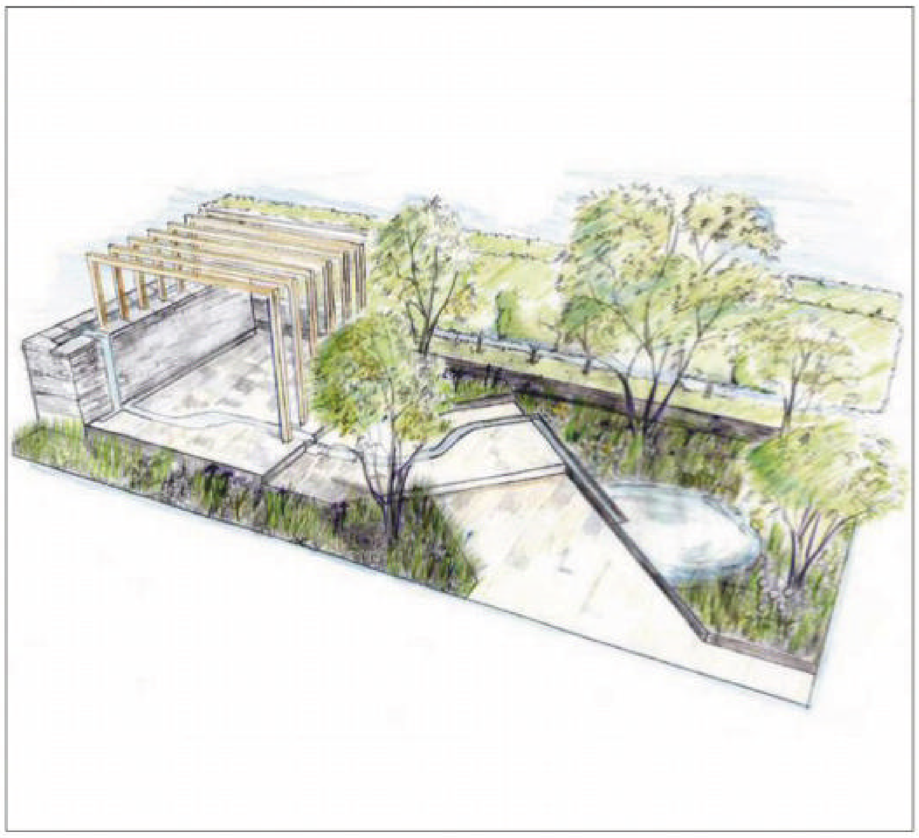
Inspired by the rocky northern coast of Spain, this garden spreads from sandy shoreline through rock pools and rocky foreshore to a sheltered, densely planted stretch of land where *Pinus sylvestris* trees stand firm. The sliced rock formation creates strong vertical elements that separate two rock pools. A weathered deck of Thames Estuary timber is sheltered by an elegant, wave-like canopy made from copper mesh. Various euphorbias, including *E. tirucalli*, link the planting. Cliff-top species include *Agave horrida* and *Opuntia humifusa*, while the shrubby hinterland is evoked by myrtles, *Corokia cotoneaster* and *Pistacia lentiscus*.
Contact 07775 512654, joeperkinsdesign.com



Taina Suonio

Plot	RHW283, Space to Grow Garden.
Sponsor	Kyrö Distillery Company.
Contractor	Conquest Creative Spaces.
Theme	An evocation of the Finnish countryside, with biodiverse meadows and woodlands, in an urban setting.

Chelsea's first Finnish garden is a series of geometric beds filled with woodland and meadow planting native to the country. Weathered grey planks from an old barn form one wall, while a cascading water feature and climbers frame the garden on the adjoining wall. *Campanula* is the dominant plant in the sunny floral meadow, while the woodland planting, in shades of green, white and pink, features lily of the valley, Finland's national flower. Red tones are provided by the foliage of *Betula pubescens* f. *rubra*, a rare birch from the north of the country. Other trees include *Juniperus communis* 'Hibernica' and *Salix caprea*.
Contact +358 (0)50 44 35 789, rmgardens.fi



Miki Sato & Kazuto Kashiwakura

Plot	RHW284, Space to Grow Garden.
Sponsor	More than 300 private sponsors.
Contractor	Tatsuya Shirai, Otis Landscape Associates, Harrison Landscapes, Kawai & Co Ltd.
Theme	A garden that celebrates the health-giving properties of plants.

This garden is inspired by the sounds and sights of melting snow. Water tumbles from a rill inset in a drystone wall and flows across two sandstone terraces, dropping into a pool. The planting consists mainly of species with medicinal benefits, including *Paeonia lactiflora* whose roots relieve headaches and stomach aches. Pleached hornbeams, emerging from a raised bed of Corten steel, create a backdrop, while a *Magnolia kobus*, whose buds have antipyretic properties, provides shade. The restful planting palette is mainly green with whites, soft yellows and hints of blue.
Contact miki-designs.com ▷

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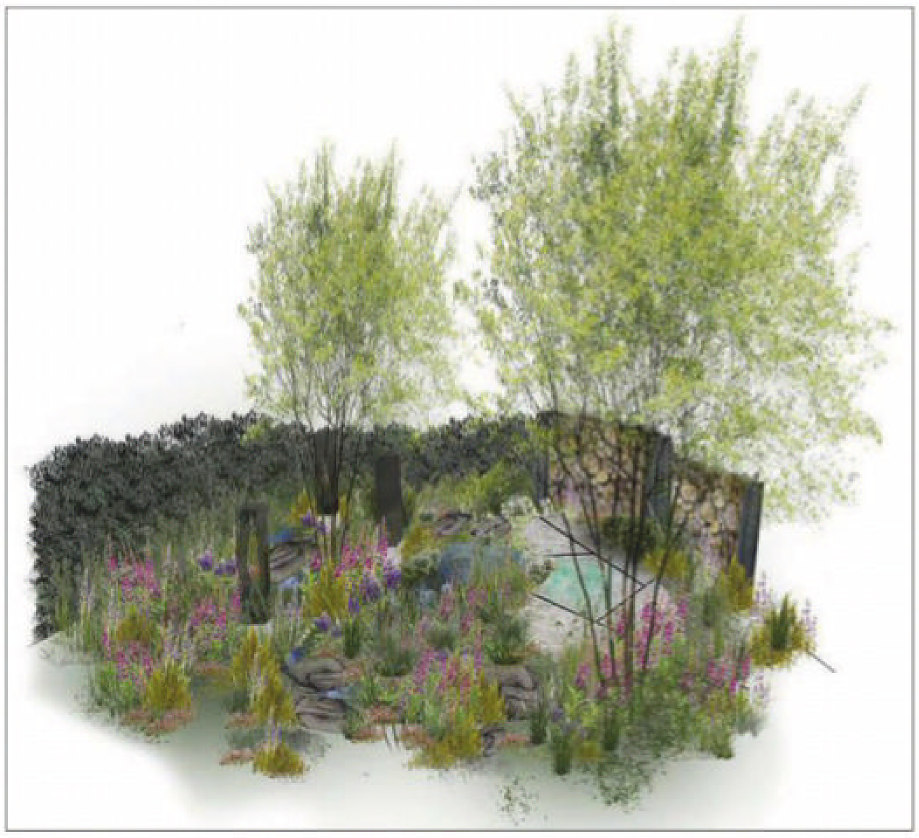
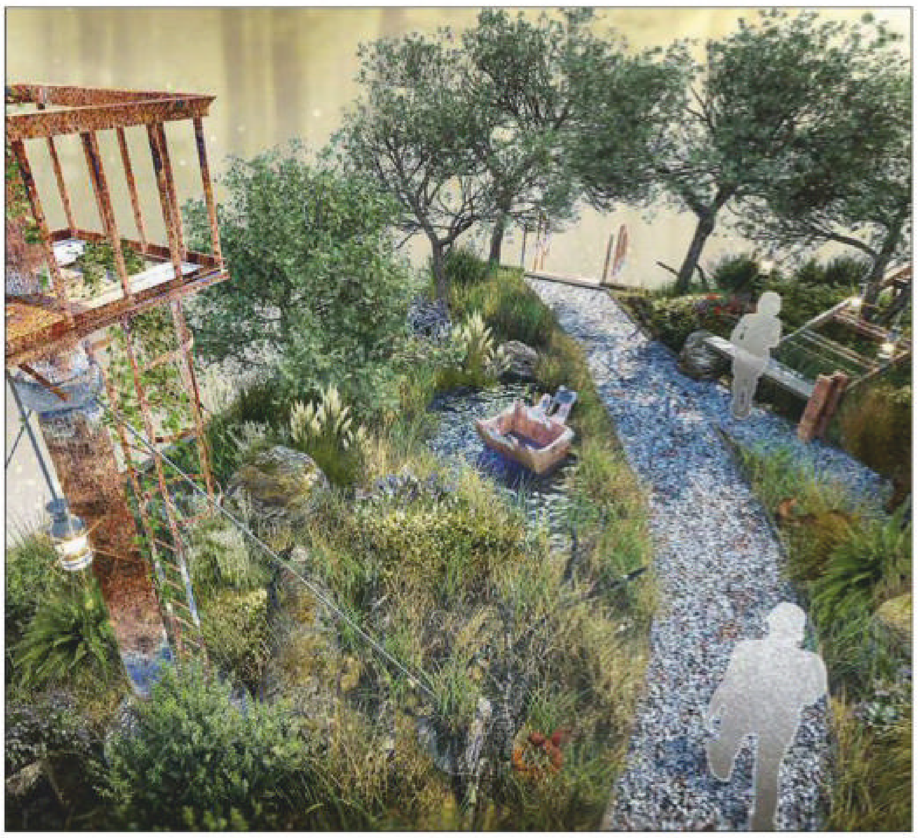


Paul Hervey-Brookes

Plot	RHW285, Space to Grow Garden.
Sponsor	Viking Cruises.
Contractor	Big Fish Landscapes.
Theme	A garden inspired by water meadows and journeys on water.

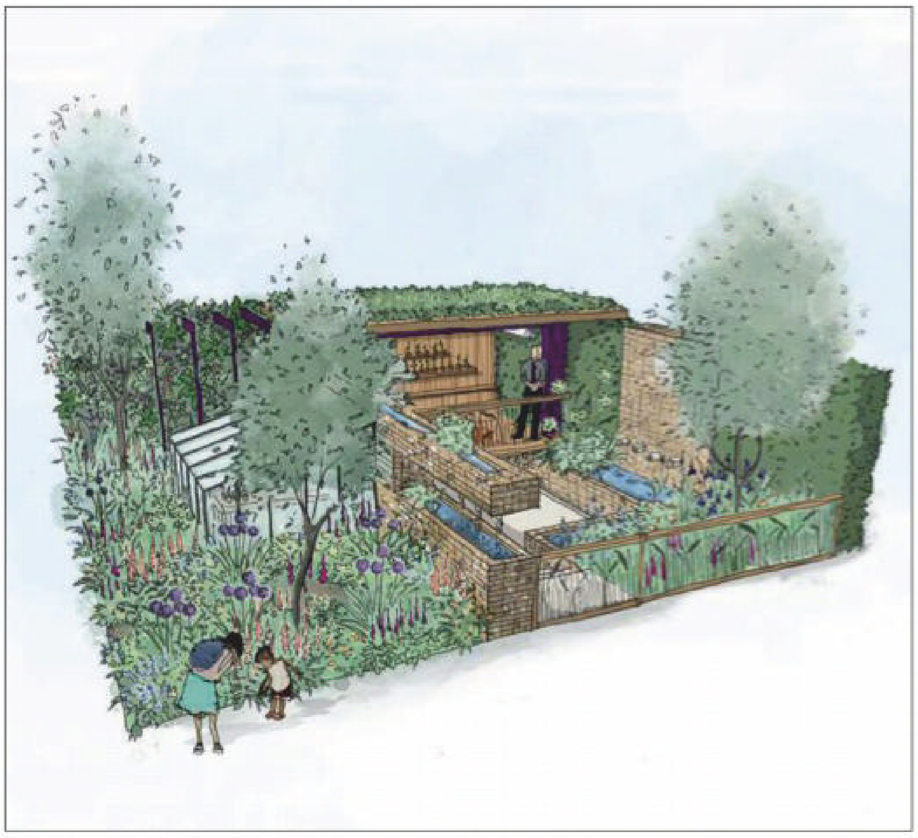
Inspired by grassy water meadows in Ukraine, this imagined landscape, which is a setting for three, large, steel sculptures, is a tapestry of streams, scree and flowery meadow. The streams trickle through the rolling terrain to a collecting pool beside a terrace constructed in geometric sections of glazed concrete. A curved log wall made from pieces of birch links to the multi-stemmed *Betula nigra* at the front of the garden. The lower canopy comprises different forms of *Salix*, while the ground-level planting is predominantly in shades of pink and blue. Each of the 3m-tall rectangular sculptures has an opening in its centre, and the sculptures are arranged so the gaps become progressively larger, suggesting the way in which travel can broaden the mind.
Contact paulherveybrookes.com



Graham Bodle

Plot	AR561, Artisan Garden.
Sponsor	Walkers Nurseries.
Contractor	Walkers Nurseries.
Theme	Inspiration for how an industrial site can become a garden full of atmosphere.

Bold industrial elements from a disused quarry, including a 4.5m-high inspection tower, an aggregate conveyor and a digger bucket, announce that this is a garden that has embraced its site. The inspiration came from an actual quarry at Walkers Nurseries in Yorkshire where the designer used to play as a child. A path made of crushed concrete, brick and stone leads through the planting, which forms an undulating layer of grasses, perennials and groundcover species below columns of weathered sandstone and clipped yew. Rusty and orange tones are delivered by foliage plants such as *Rodgersia pinnata* 'Chocolate Wing' and by a selection of bearded irises. Mature pines add scale at the back of the garden.
Contact 01302 770325, walkersnurseries.tv



Jody Lidgard

Plot	RHW286, Space to Grow Garden.
Sponsor	Montessori Centre International.
Contractor	Bespoke Outdoor Spaces.
Theme	Garden, celebrating the teaching methods of Maria Montessori, that encourages children to experience different ways of gardening.

Many opportunities for experiencing and learning about gardening are packed into this garden on two levels. A converted shipping container with a sedum roof provides a teaching space where salad leaves are grown hydroponically. Its mesh verandah encourages children to peer at the plants growing below. Steps lead down to a sunken courtyard area where water is held in a rectilinear pool fed by wall spouts, with wetland plants at its margins, and in a channel filled with runoff from the roof that spills into a lower-level rill. Small-gauge gabions create the walls for these water features, and a colourful cutting garden surrounds a productive greenhouse.
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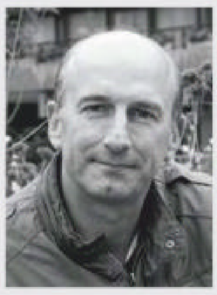
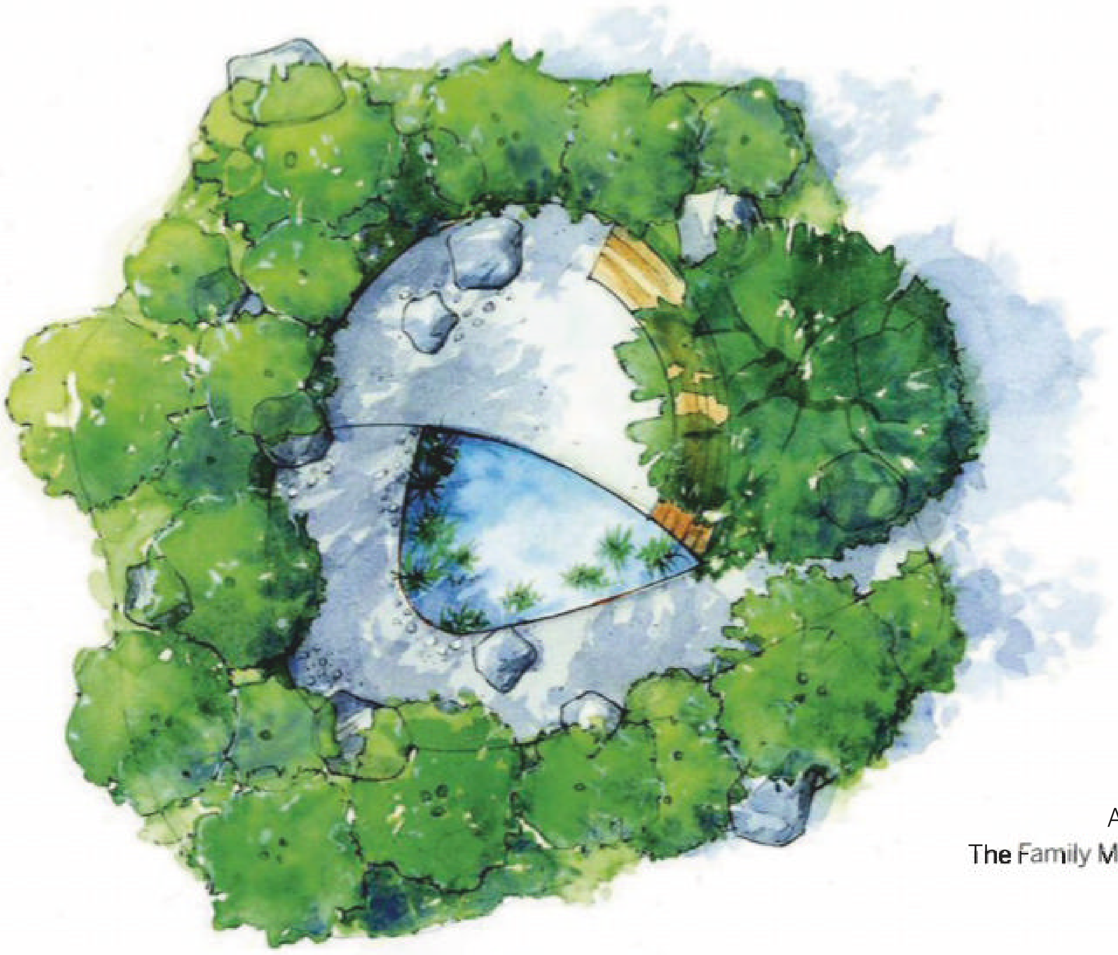
CRITICS' SHORTLIST

Ahead of the official judging we asked critics, including previous Chelsea winners and an ambassador for the RHS 'Greening Grey Britain' campaign, to pick their personal winners

	Main Gardens	Artisan Gardens	Space to Grow
 Annie Guilfoyle Annie is a designer, lecturer and co-founder of Garden Masterclass.	**My shortlist (favourite in green)** **+ The M&G Garden** **+ The Greenfingers Charity Garden** **+ Warner's Distillery Garden** **+ The Savills and David Harber Garden** With seven gold medals to his name, Andy Sturgeon always creates gardens that are meticulously designed, with plants given equal ranking to the hard stuff. It will be intriguing to see how he has realised the design concept. Knowing Andy, there will be new plants to enjoy, never seen before at Chelsea.	**+ Family Monsters Garden** **+ The High Maintenance Garden** **+ Green Switch** **+ Walker's Forgotten Quarry Garden** The simplicity of this garden appeals to me. It has a serious message and in order to communicate this, Alistair Bayford has shown restraint in his choice of materials and plants. Conveying a narrative in a show garden context is challenging, yet Bayford's garden will surely deliver the message in a gentle way and draw people in to find out more.	**+ The Manchester Garden** **+ The Facebook Garden** **+ The CAMFED Garden** **+ The Roots in Finland Kyrö Garden** This contemporary portrayal of a historical northern city delivers an important message relating to both public spaces and private gardens, tackling issues such as how to future proof our planting schemes and pay greater attention to water management. It's refreshing to see landscape architects rubbing shoulders with garden designers.
CHARLIE HOPKINSON **Tim Richardson** Tim is a columnist, garden critic and leading garden thinker.	**+ The M&G Garden** **+ The Wedgwood Garden** **+ The Dubai Majlis Garden** **+ The Morgan Stanley Garden** Andy Sturgeon likes to work in a modernist architectural context, so it will be interesting to see how he adapts to a woodland scene with no man-made interventions, and 'sculptures' formed by burnt wood. My hunch is that it will raise his work to another level, allowing him to deploy plants and trees in a structural way. Perhaps this will be his year.	**+ Green Switch** **+ Walker's Forgotten Quarry Garden** **+ The High Maintenance Garden** **+ The Donkey Sanctuary** Chelsea veteran Kazuyuki Ishihara draws regular plaudits for his detailed plantsmanship. This year's ambitious offering features a waterfall and a glass-walled tea room and shower room. The strongest planting note is from acers, rendered in rich autumn colours on the artist's impression. This exhibit may well eclipse several others on Main Avenue.	**+ The Facebook Garden** **+ The Art of Viking Garden** **+ The Silent Pool Gin Garden** **+ The Manchester Garden** The coastal theme in this category is a big ask, and the open plots are hard to work with, but Sussex-based designer Joe Perkins has a reputation for well-finished designs. If he can install innovative hard features, such as craggy, vertical slabs and a translucent pavilion, along with spiky seaside plants and grasses, this garden could well stand out.
RACHEL WARNE **Ann-Marie Powell** Garden designer Ann-Marie won Gold at Chelsea in 2010.	**+ The M&G Garden** **+ The Dubai Majlis Garden** **+ The Greenfingers Charity Garden** **+ The Wedgwood Garden** Andy Sturgeon's lush woodland, inspired by nature's regenerative powers, is bound to be magical. Fifty tonnes of burnt-oak sculpture representing ancient rock formations will be combined with pools and streams, vast, English ironstone platforms and biodiverse, pioneering plant species from around the world. The result is sure to quicken the blood.	**+ Family Monsters Garden** **+ Green Switch** **+ Walker's Forgotten Quarry Garden** Alistair Bayford's garden will resonate with many in a deeply personal way. Bayford represents the pressures faced by families by creating a garden in the round, allowing a journey through boulders and trees to culminate in a central, reflective space designed to provide families room for talking, reconnecting and gathering the strength to face life's challenges together.	**+ The Facebook Garden** **+ The CAMFED Garden** **+ The Roots in Finland Kyrö Garden** **+ The Art of Viking Garden** Known for his work with acclaimed contractors The Outdoor Room, Joe Perkins' first show garden at Chelsea is sure to be meticulous. Celebrating the benefits of social media to connect people and drive social change, his horticultural analogy of online activism is a constantly changing and diverse coastal habitat where many species can thrive.
MARIANNE MAJERUS  **Nigel Dunnett** Nigel is an RHS Ambassador, designer and ecologist, who won Gold at Chelsea in 2013.	**+ The M&G Garden** **+ IKEA and Tom Dixon** **+ The Welcome to Yorkshire Garden** Andy Sturgeon's garden is truly original and stands out from the rest. It brings a quality of thought and innovation of concept that should encapsulate Chelsea. Atmospheric, awe-inspiring and immersive, it speaks of the primeval, and of the deep connections we have with nature. It's a coherent work of art that places as much creative emphasis on planting as on built structures.	**+ Green Switch** **+ Family Monsters Garden** **+ Walker's Forgotten Quarry Garden** The search for originality becomes more difficult for the Artisan Gardens with every year, but the Green Switch garden may achieve its goal with this vision of modern, efficient, compact living within a very natural and evocative setting. Doubtless it will be built with the usual precision and minute attention to detail, but there may be just a little bit too much going on in this garden.	**+ The CAMFED Garden** **+ The Roots in Finland Kryö Garden** **+ The Facebook Garden** I really appreciate gardens that bring something new to the show, that tell a story and give a message in a unified way. This garden has it all: a joyful celebration of energy; an artful, make-and-do mentality, a touch of realism; and a sense of hope. The powerful underlying story is apparent in the garden, but not too forced or obvious. It's a difficult trick to pull off, but this garden looks to be a delight.

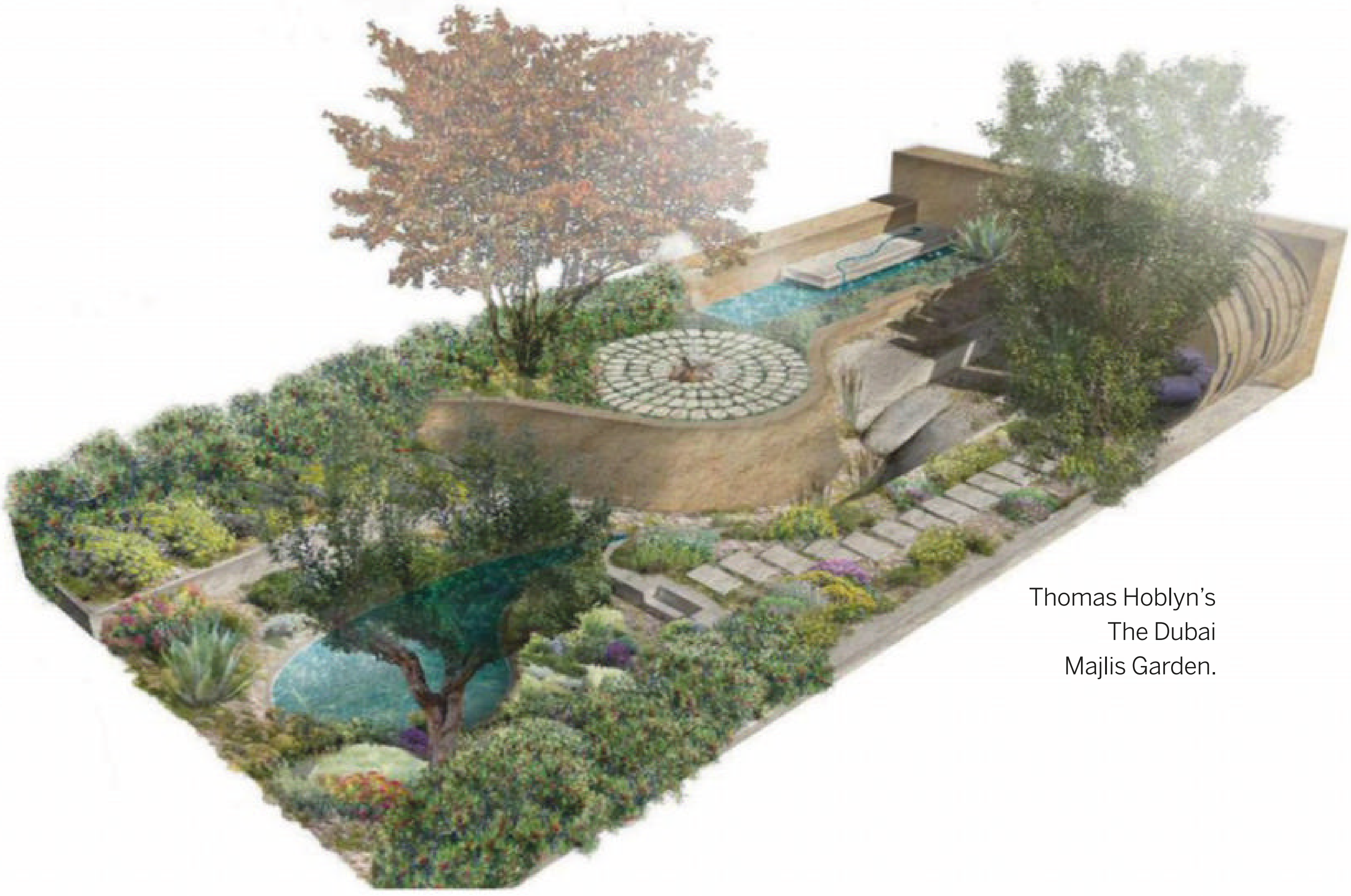
One to watch

Rather than selecting a specific garden here, I have chosen to **celebrate trees**, which feature in many of this year's Chelsea exhibits. It is truly marvellous that so many gardens revel in all things arboreal. Never has it been so timely to be putting trees at the forefront of design. It is fascinating to see how waves wash over Chelsea, knowing there has been no collusion between designers on trends or ideas. It seems that the time has come to plant more trees in our gardens.



Alistair Bayford's
The Family Monsters Garden.

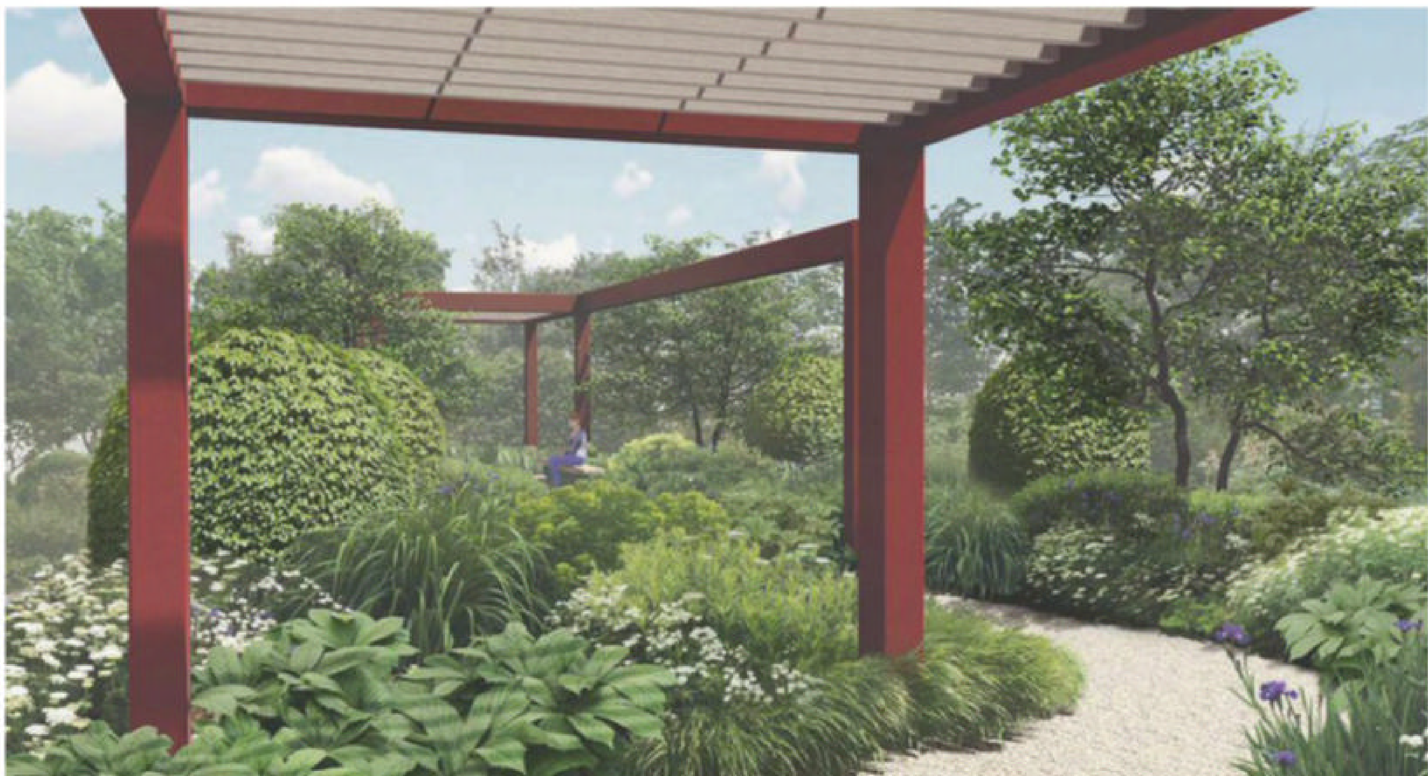
The Dubai Majlis Garden by designer Thomas Hoblyn. There are two mavericks on Main Avenue this year: Thomas Hoblyn and Sarah Eberle, but it is Hoblyn who really pushes out the boat with his Dubai Majlis Garden, promising 'goat-browsed' plants amid 'sand-dune-like shapes', as well as several pools. The design is probably a little over complicated, but this designer's planting is always interesting and will provide a nice counterpoint to the largely woodland-inspired designs elsewhere.



Thomas Hoblyn's
The Dubai
Majlis Garden.

The RHS Bridgewater Garden by designer Tom Stuart-Smith. Though not in competition, this garden will be the largest at Chelsea. It heralds the new 154-acre RHS garden in Salford due to open in 2020 and is designed, like Bridgewater, to be fresh, big, contemporary and inclusive. Planting comprises three distinct elements, with groups of *Cornus kousa* rising above clipped beech domes, which themselves form sculptural counterpoints to a large, perennial meadow. Bound to be breathtaking.

Tom Stuart-Smith's
RHS Bridgewater Garden.



The Roots in Finland Kryö Garden by designer Taina Suonio. I have a fondness for gardens that create a strong sense of place and are firmly rooted in their localities. This quiet and rather unassuming garden is full of elements that link back to the culture and landscape of Finland – a cascading water feature, bush-hammered granite paving, a boundary fence reclaimed from an old barn – while not being directly literal in their interpretation of the land of lakes and birches.

WHAT ELSE?

Beyond the show gardens, there's always plenty to see at Chelsea. Consider our selection of the best products and plants to look out for at the show

① Fine china

After viewing Jo Thompson's Wedgwood Garden, take the chance to enjoy a cup of tea in Wedgwood's adjacent Tea Conservatory, which will showcase its new tableware collection for 2019 – Wild Strawberry Gold. Marking Wedgwood's 260th anniversary, this popular design has been revived and now features gold foliage and butterflies among the finely drawn leaves, flowers and wild strawberries. wedgwood.co.uk Plot **RGB2**

② Outdoor heating

Combining style and efficiency, Chesneys' latest outdoor heating range addresses current environmental concerns about emissions from burning wood. New models on show include Clean Burn, which uses indoor technology to heat outdoor spaces, and Heat and Grill, which offers six cooking modes combined with its atmospheric fire. chesneys.co.uk Stand **PW252**

③ Pretty peony

Breeder Don Stevens has spent over a decade cultivating the exquisite *Paeonia* 'All That Jazz' for Primrose Hall Peonies. The hybrid herbaceous and tree, Itoh peony has the star qualities of both with large apricot blooms that have a smattering of pink flecks and a light scent, and delicately cut foliage. primrosehallpeonies.co.uk Stand **GPE197**

④ Rhododendrons

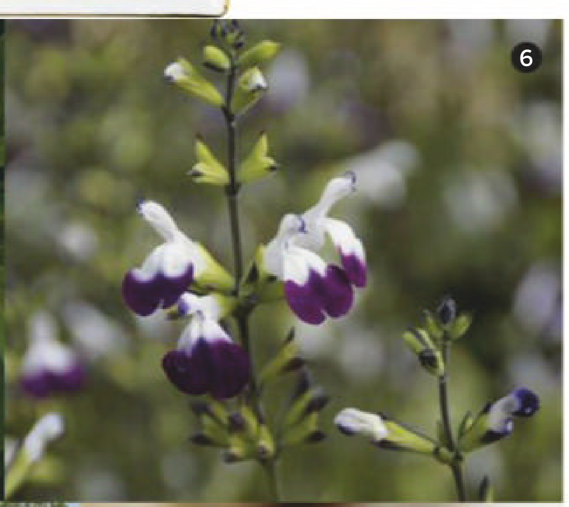
As part of its centenary celebrations, Exbury Gardens is teaming up with Millais Nurseries to exhibit both heritage rhododendrons, including some bred by Exbury Gardens' founder Lionel de Rothschild, and new cultivars from Millais Nurseries. Look out for new *R.* 'Jessica de Rothschild' ideal for smaller gardens. rhododendrons.co.uk Stand **GPC171**

⑤ Tree treats

Trees are everywhere at the show this year. Interesting specimens include monkey puzzle trees *Araucaria araucana* on Jonathan Snow's Trailfinders Garden (Plot **RGB3**), sophisticated, birch-like *Zelkova serrata* on Chris Beardshaw's (Plot **MA323**) and the Grecian strawberry tree, *Arbutus andrachne* on Thomas Hoblyn's Dubai Majilis garden (Plot **MA325**). "I wanted to focus on the textural nature of the planting and my piece de resistance will be bushy, windblown *Arbutus*, which has beautiful coppery bark," says Thomas.

⑥ New salvia

New plant introductions from Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants include *Salvia* 'Amethyst Lips', cousin to the popular 'Hot Lips' but this time with bi-coloured rich-purple and white flowers. Limited stock available at the show in a one-litre pot, £7.50. hardysplants.co.uk Stand **GPF205**



⑦ Sustainable futures

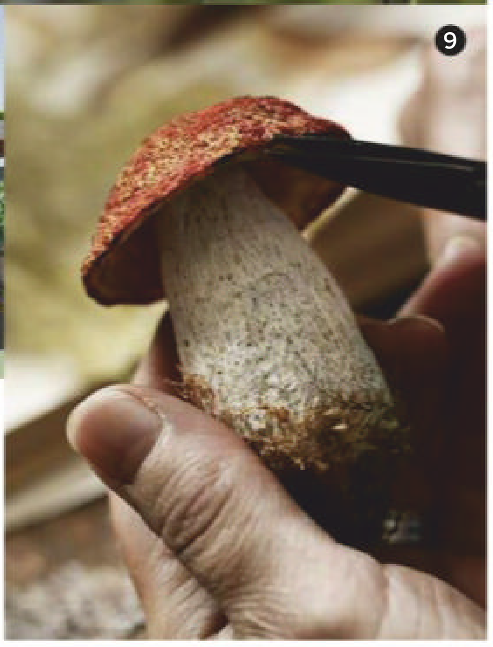
There's cutting-edge science at the show too. The University of Surrey and Plant-e of the Netherlands are collaborating with designer David Neale on the Silent Pool Gin Garden to demonstrate how plants and the associated microbial processes in soil can produce electricity. silentpooldistillers.com Plot **RHW288**

⑧ Supporting plants

Plant Belles is adding three new products to its range of hand crafted, elegant, grow-through plants supports and wirework. Grande Plant Belles are taller, wider and heavier than the original range so as to support more unruly shrub roses and heavy headed shrubs, such as *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'. Short listed for this year's RHS Chelsea Product of the Year. plantbelles.co.uk Stand **AR539**

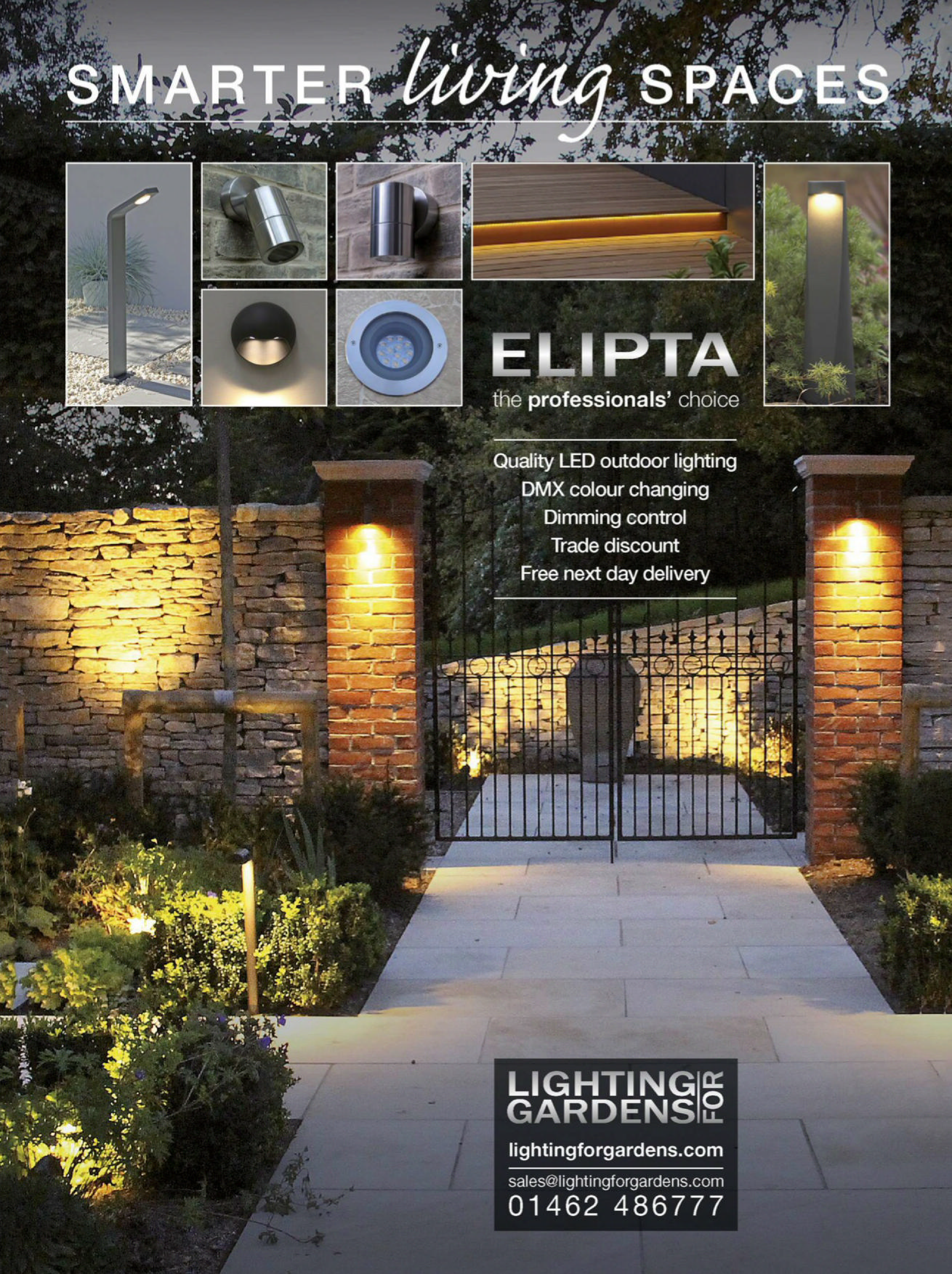
⑨ Fungi art

Textile artist Amanda Cobbett is exhibiting at RHS Chelsea for the first time and will be launching her new collection. Amanda crafts remarkably life-like *papier mâché* and machine embroidered artworks inspired by nature, such as fungi, which she displays in Victorian-style cabinets. amandacobbett.com Stand **EA508**



⑩ Home grown

This year will see the first judged, walk-through garden in the Great Pavilion as IKEA joins forces with industrial designer Tom Dixon to explore growing crops at home in an affordable and innovative way. The garden is layered; on the lower level salads will be grown within hydroponic growing systems, while the top layer features harvestable trees and shrubs. ikea.com Stand **GPE203**



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Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R.Alexander

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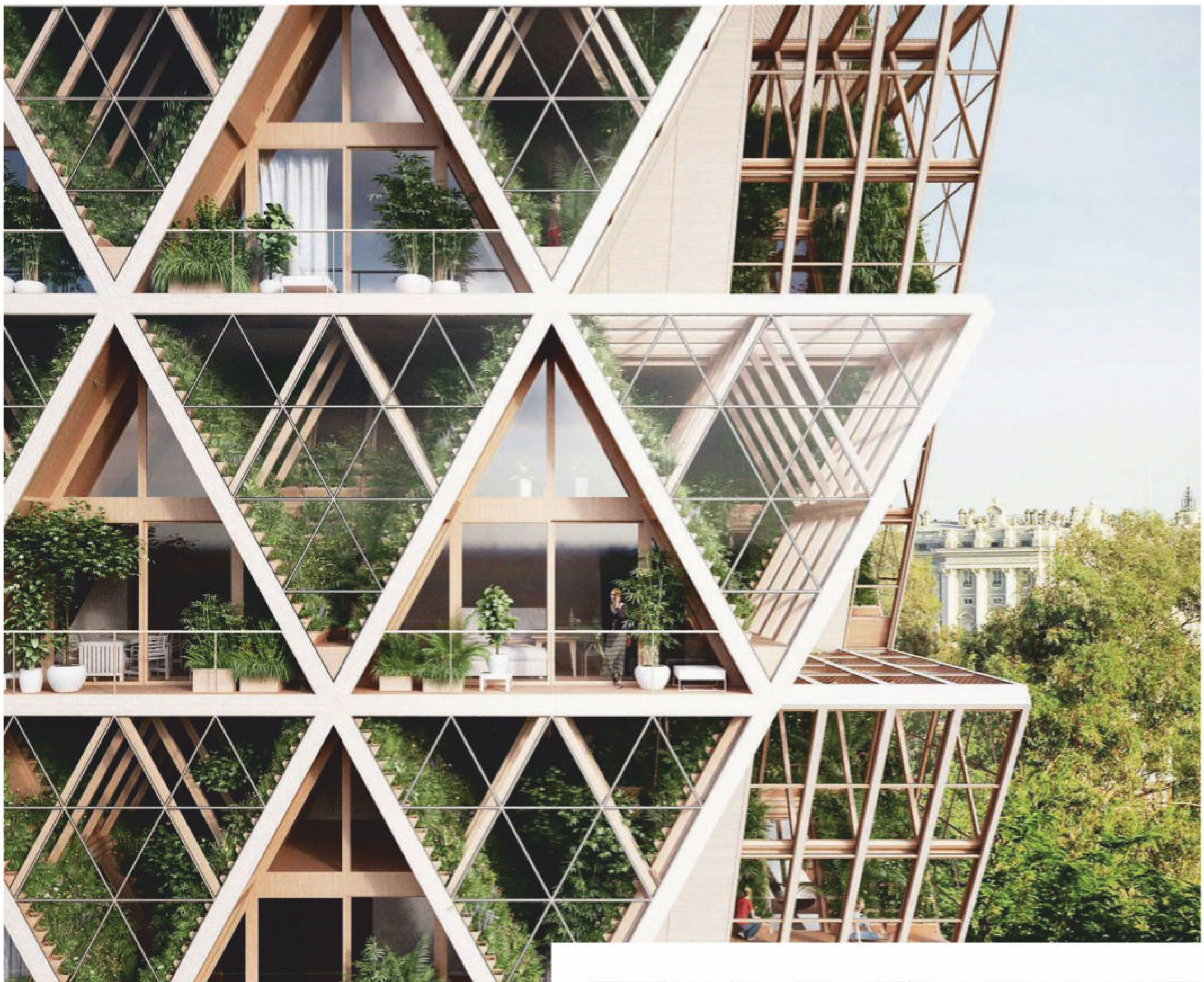
News and sourcebook



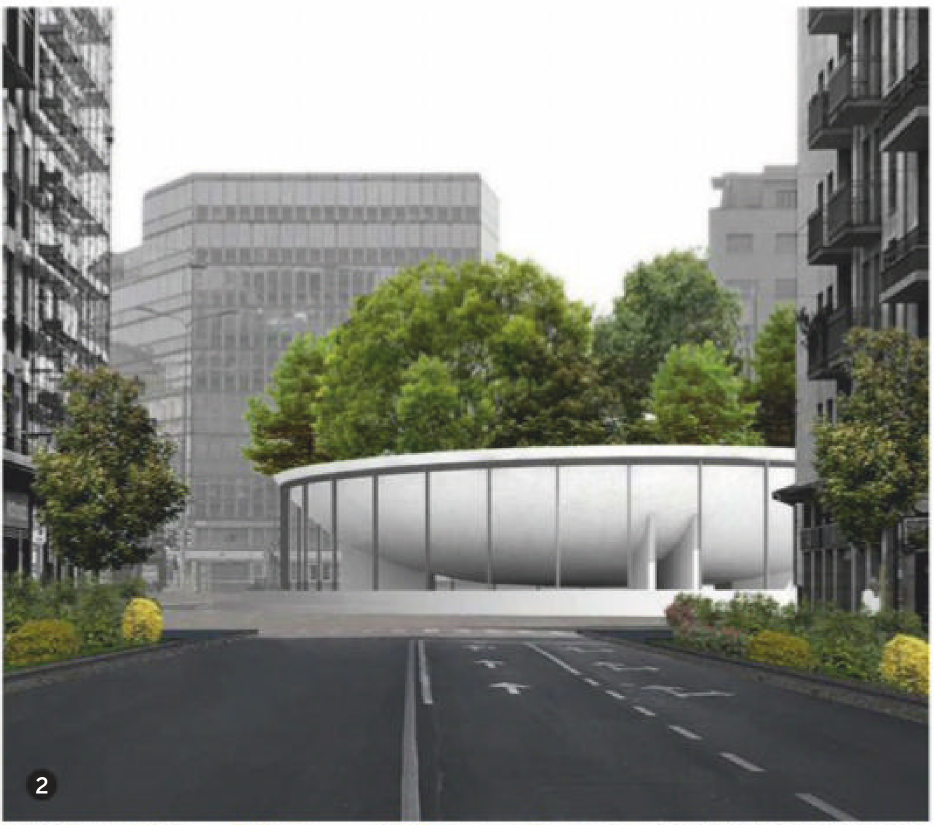
PRECHT STUDIOS

HIGH LIFE

Austrian-based architecture studio Precht has developed a concept for a modular residential tower block with in-built space for vertical farming. Known as the Farmhouse, the tower would be made up of prefabricated, A-frame housing modules, constructed out of cross-laminated timber, which can be stacked to create flexible living spaces. The inverted gaps between the modules would provide room for vertical garden spaces that could be watered by filtered rain and grey water. These productive gardens could be private or communal, with some of the food grown hydroponically. Composting units would be provided for turning food waste into growing material that can be used for growing more food. **precht.at**

NEWS

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



① GARDEN AT 120

A garden atop the 15-storey office building at 120 Fenchurch Street has opened to the public, making it the City of London's largest public roof garden. Offering 360-degree views across the city, the quarter-acre garden is a collaboration between Eric Parry Architects, Latz + Partner and LUC landscape architects and features a 4m-high galvanised steel pergola clad in around 80 wisterias. To the west a rill with in-built seating snakes alongside a parterre of clipped box. The 200-capacity garden, requires no booking, and is open Monday to Friday, 10am-9pm, and currently, for a trial period, at weekends, 10am-5pm. **thegardenat120.com**

② IN THE ROUND

The conceptual design for an elevated garden in Milan has been revealed at the From Spaces to Places convention at La Sapienza University Rome. Designed by Italian architects LAD and HYPNOS, the Overpark sits on the basin-shaped roof of a new plaza to replace Milan's Piazzale Loreto roundabout. At its centre is a social space featuring a circle of planting around an oculus that provides natural light for the ground-level plaza below. The trees and other plants, which will also be planted on the sloping sides, will help to trap air pollutants and the shape of the roof will provide a buffer against traffic noise. **architizer.com; hypnos-studio.com**

③ HAM HOUSE PLATS

A new design for the manicured lawns known as the 'grass plats' at Ham House near London will feature more than 500,000 bulbs along with wildflowers to create washes of colour throughout spring and early summer. The eight plats have been planted to create alternate squares of bulbs and wildflowers, mimicking the black and white marble flooring in the National Trust house. The early *Crocus* 'Ruby Giant' (shown) will be followed by intermingled reds, yellows and purples of four species tulips and later by *Muscari latifolium*. Once these are finished, a mix of 20 native wildflowers will come into flower, carrying interest through until July. **nationaltrust.org.uk**

④ 9/11 MEMORIAL GLADE

The 9/11 Memorial Glade on the site of the former World Trade Center in New York opens officially on 30 May. Designed by architects Michael Arad and Peter Walker, the glade dedicated to rescuers, survivors and others affected by the 9/11 attacks, sits in a grove of swamp white oaks on Memorial Plaza, and features a pathway cut through six stone monoliths that seem to erupt from the ground. Each granite block weighs around 15 tons and, inspired by the Japanese technique of *kintsugi* that celebrates repair as part of the history of an object, incorporates steel salvaged from the World Trade Center. **911memorial.org**

LAD & HYPNOS STUDIO. CHRIS DAVIES. MOSO STUDIOS

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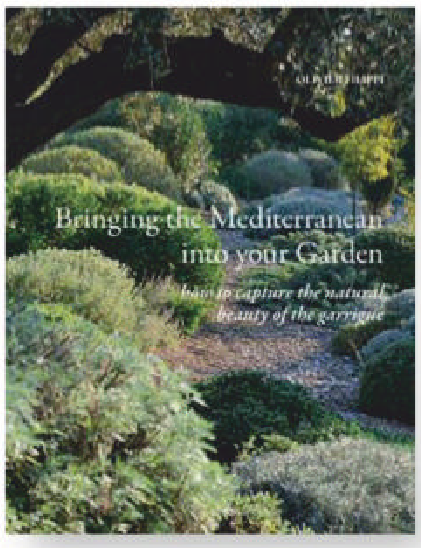
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, crossword, back issues, reader offer

Dancing buttercup flowers with Solomon's seal by Frida Kim Flowers is one of the designs featured in *Blooms*, an overview of the creatives who are reinvigorating the world of floristry, reviewed on page 130.

FRIDA KIM FLOWERS

BOOK REVIEWS


OLIVIER FILIPPI
Bringing the Mediterranean into your Garden
how to capture the natural beauty of the garrigue

BRINGING THE MEDITERRANEAN INTO YOUR GARDEN

by Olivier Filippi

Filbert Press, £40
ISBN 978-1999734510

A detailed look at Olivier Filippi's approach to creating garrigue landscapes – a treat for Mediterranean landscape and garden enthusiasts.

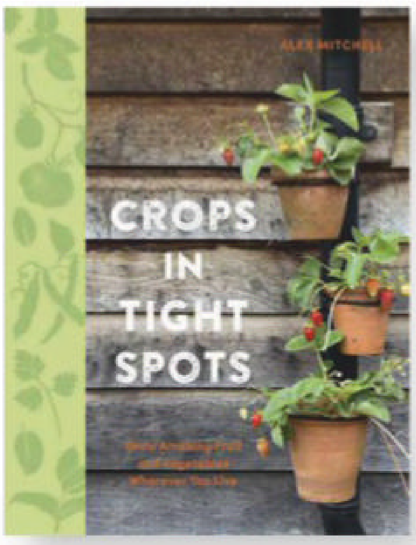
Reviewer Ula Maria is a garden designer and illustrator.

Nurseryman, author and photographer Olivier Filippi is one of the best-known names among garrigue landscape practitioners and Mediterranean plant growers. He has spent more than 30 years exploring dry-climate regions, building his knowledge of Mediterranean plants, including little-known specimens, and ideas of how to introduce them into the garden.

This book is a fascinating journey through 'landscape gardens' of the Mediterranean, from the White Mountains and gorges that descend to the Libyan Sea in Crete to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, exploring the mesmerising plants found in such locations and why they live there. Filippi shares his exceptional knowledge and understanding of dry-climate landscapes, as well as ways of working with nature to create gardens that require little water or attendance and thrive in conditions where most other plant species would not stand a chance of surviving.

Garrigue plants, known for their tolerance of drought, wind and poor soil conditions, have become more significant in recent years in response to climate change and its impact on our gardens. The book is an invitation to rediscover gardens as dynamic ecosystems, where the gardener has less control over specific plant arrangements and allows nature to evolve organically, unlike the traditional ways of designing and planting English herbaceous borders.

The photography is spellbindingly beautiful, capturing not only the essence of the garrigue, with its extensive, dusty-green, glaucous and rocky landscapes, but also unfamiliar, jewel-like flowers and plants, bound to spark the reader's imagination. This book will delight Mediterranean landscape and garden enthusiasts.



CROPS IN TIGHT SPOTS

by Alex Mitchell

Kyle Books, £18.99
ISBN 978-0857835925

A positive, upbeat publication, aimed at the new or aspiring urban gardener, or anyone who is gardening in a restricted space.

Reviewer Matthew Biggs is a garden writer and broadcaster.

Alex Mitchell, garden columnist for the *Evening Standard*, seeks out awkward urban locations and reveals how they can be transformed into productive, edible spaces. From ledges and sills to roofs, alleys and balconies, this book is full of enterprising, imaginative and sustainable ideas for growing your own.

The book is crammed with concise, practical tips and advice, including handy lists of tools and plants, and ideas for attractive upcycling. There are quick and easy projects that are geared to the target audience but could be adopted by anyone, from cultivating sushi herbs and microgreens on a windowsill indoors to 'growing your own cocktail cabinet'. The text is punctuated by several Inspiration sections – practical case studies that provide a wonderful momentum and are a real pleasure to read. Esiah Levy's 'no dig' system, for example, using a range of organic material from coffee grounds to garden prunings, emphasises that growing your own is not only practical but fun, and an opportunity to 'think outside the box', while Wendy Shillam proves that location is no obstacle by creating an edible, permaculture roof garden just a stone's throw from Oxford Street. The pages are also colour-coded, making the book easy to dip into and very user-friendly. Need inspiration? Look out for the pages coloured pale blue. Get the look sections are apricot and the handy practical projects are in green.

It is a minor quibble that on some occasions more explanation or images would help clarify the text, but overall the instructions are clear. Any book that encourages its audience to enjoy the benefits of gardening, particularly growing your own, is to be applauded.

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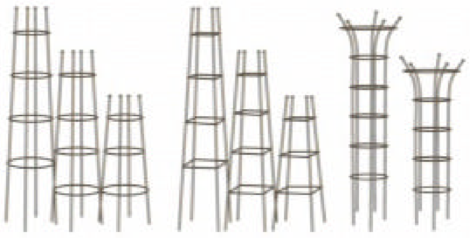

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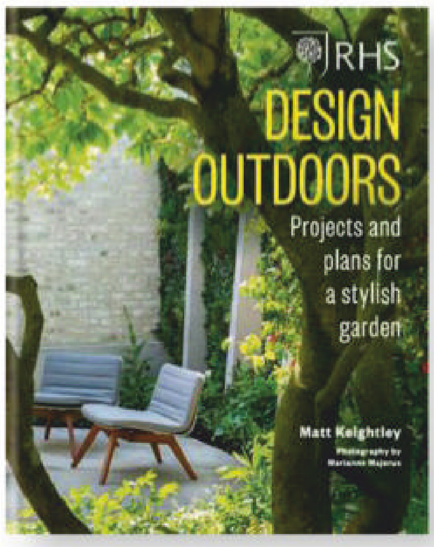
BOOK REVIEWS



RHS DESIGN OUTDOORS: PROJECTS AND PLANS FOR A STYLISH GARDEN
by Matt Keightley,
photography by
Marianne Majerus

Mitchell Beazley, £25
ISBN 978-1784724801

Designer Matt Keightley's first book is a thing of beauty and a valuable source of design inspiration – a stylish guide to a stylish garden.

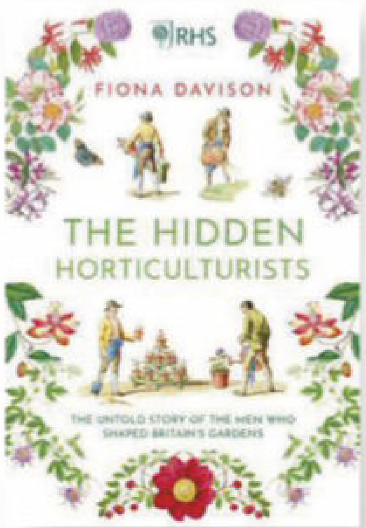
Reviewer Annie Guilfoyle is a garden designer and lecturer.

In the introduction to this book, Keightley promises to take readers 'behind the eyes of the designer' through the remarkable photography of Marianne Majerus, and assures us that there will be something to learn. The images are indeed sublime, but is this book more than just a collection of well-composed photographs?

Thirty-five gardens are featured, some designed by Keightley, the rest by a collection of more than 20 other designers. The gardens are predominantly contemporary, cool and urban with a few exceptions. Having defined the key 'guidelines of design', Keightley kicks off with Show Stoppers – gardens that have a strong design concept but are easily achievable. Family Gardens follow, which is heartening, as sophisticated, uber-chic gardens often ignore the needs of young families. One of these gardens, designed by the author, cleverly conceals the ubiquitous trampoline by sinking it into the ground and screening it with hedging.

In contrast to the chapter on minimalist gardens is Plants First, where designers have dedicated more space to plants than hard landscape. The final chapter covers challenging sites such as basements, roof terraces and tiny courtyards.

Each case study includes a 'design checklist' describing specific features, along with a focus on 'garden details', either a planting combination or a particular material. A plan drawing supports each design, enabling the reader to interpret the garden. A small improvement might have been to give a full page to each plan and show key dimensions, but overall this book will be extremely helpful to anyone wanting inspirational ideas for a contemporary garden. Yes, it is much more than just a collection of fabulous photographs.



THE HIDDEN HORTICULTURISTS
by Fiona Davison

Atlantic Books, £25
ISBN 978-1786495075

A highly original piece of research into the lives of jobbing gardeners in the early 19th century, with plenty of fascinating social background.

Reviewer Tim Richardson is a garden writer.

This book by the head librarian of the RHS is a cracker. The inspiration is a notebook in the RHS archive, containing short biographical entries written in the 1820s by young gardeners arriving at what was then the Horticutural Society's training garden at Chiswick.

These are not revealing in themselves, since they contain only details such as place of birth and previous experience, but the author has used them as a springboard for research into their lives after Chiswick. Some of the names are well known, notably Joseph Paxton, who went on to be the Duke of Devonshire's head gardener at Chatsworth. The notebook reveals he was not entirely honest about his age when applying to the Society, claiming to be 15 when he was only 13 (probably to suggest he had had more schooling). Most of the names in the book are unfamiliar: James Traill, who emigrated to Egypt and worked for the country's ruler Ibrahim Pasha; Robert Abbott, who was convicted of fraud and ended up on a prison treadmill; and Robert Thompson, who stayed in Britain to become the greatest ever apple expert. The climax is a criminal mystery involving the theft of seeds, solved by a Bow Street Runner who used the handwriting in the book as a clue.

The economic situation faced by gardeners at this time is especially well drawn, and is a useful contribution to garden history in its own right. The job of one of the Chiswick gardeners who became head gardener at a large estate, is described as 'gardening on an industrial scale', while the pressure these men were under also becomes palpable. Even the great Paxton was always a servant – he was once obliged to source a set of billiard balls at short notice for his employer.

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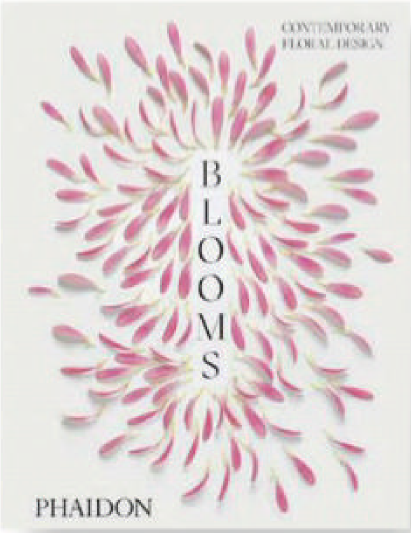
BOOK REVIEWS



BLOOMS: CONTEMPORARY FLORAL DESIGN
Phaidon Editors

Phaidon, £35
ISBN 978-0714878591

An inspiring survey of today's cutting-edge florists, examining the place of floral design within 21st-century culture and society.

Reviewer Kate Jacobs is a freelance writer.

This book is a satisfyingly complete compendium of over 80 of the most exciting florists to have emerged in the 21st century. It is impressive in its global scope – floral designers from Mexico, South Korea and Tasmania all make the cut, although it is no surprise that London, New York and Paris are the most well-represented cities. The choice of florists is given gravitas by the impressive list of nominators, who include garden designers Dan Pearson, Tania Compton and Luciano Giubbilei and revered florists, such as Shane Connolly and Kally Ellis of McQueens.

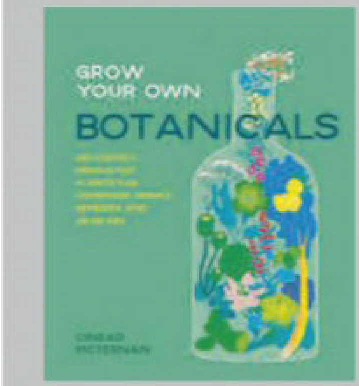
Following a preface that places floristry within a wider visual culture, an introductory essay by garden writer Clare Coulson outlines the factors that have shaped this floristry new wave. Top of the list is a new sensitivity to the environment, with floristry taking its cue from the food industry's desire for local, seasonal and sustainable produce. Coulson also examines the impact of social media, which enables young talent to find a global platform, but also allows ideas to be shamelessly copied.

The work on show ranges from understated to joyously maximalist and surreally stylised. This is an era that prizes individuality above slavish adherence to trends. But Coulson does identify a prevailing naturalistic approach, with florists choosing from a more diverse range of plants and celebrating the beauty of imperfect, faded and dead flowers, Piet Oudolf-style.

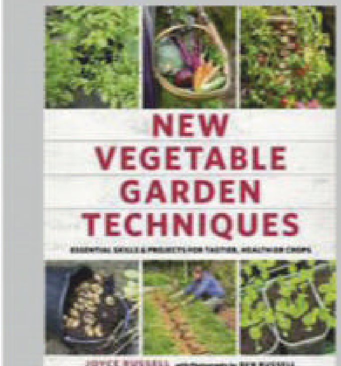
Beyond this introduction, each florist's work is represented with a short but illuminating essay and a generous selection of photographs – although the style of these sometimes feels a little too disparate. An essential book for those in the field and a treat for those who appreciate the beauty of floral art.

Other books

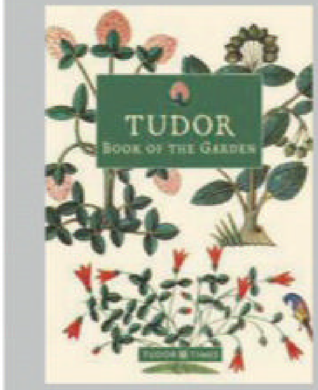
This month's offerings are packed with creative advice for gardeners, including what to grow and how to grow it.



GROW YOUR OWN BOTANICALS
by Cinead McTernan
Kyle Books, £18.99
ISBN 978-0857835314
Colourful guide to hard-working plants that are full of beauty and flavour, plus recipes for how to get the most out of them.



NEW VEGETABLE GARDENING TECHNIQUES
by Joyce Russell,
photography by Ben Russell
White Lion, £18.99
ISBN 978-1781318454
Essential effort-saving tips and new skills, and techniques for growing organic fruit and veg.



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BAYLOR CHAPMAN

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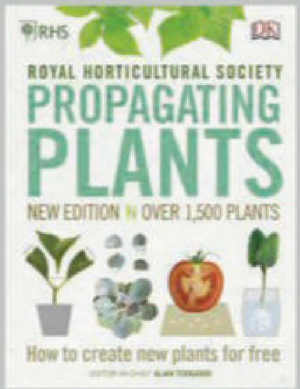
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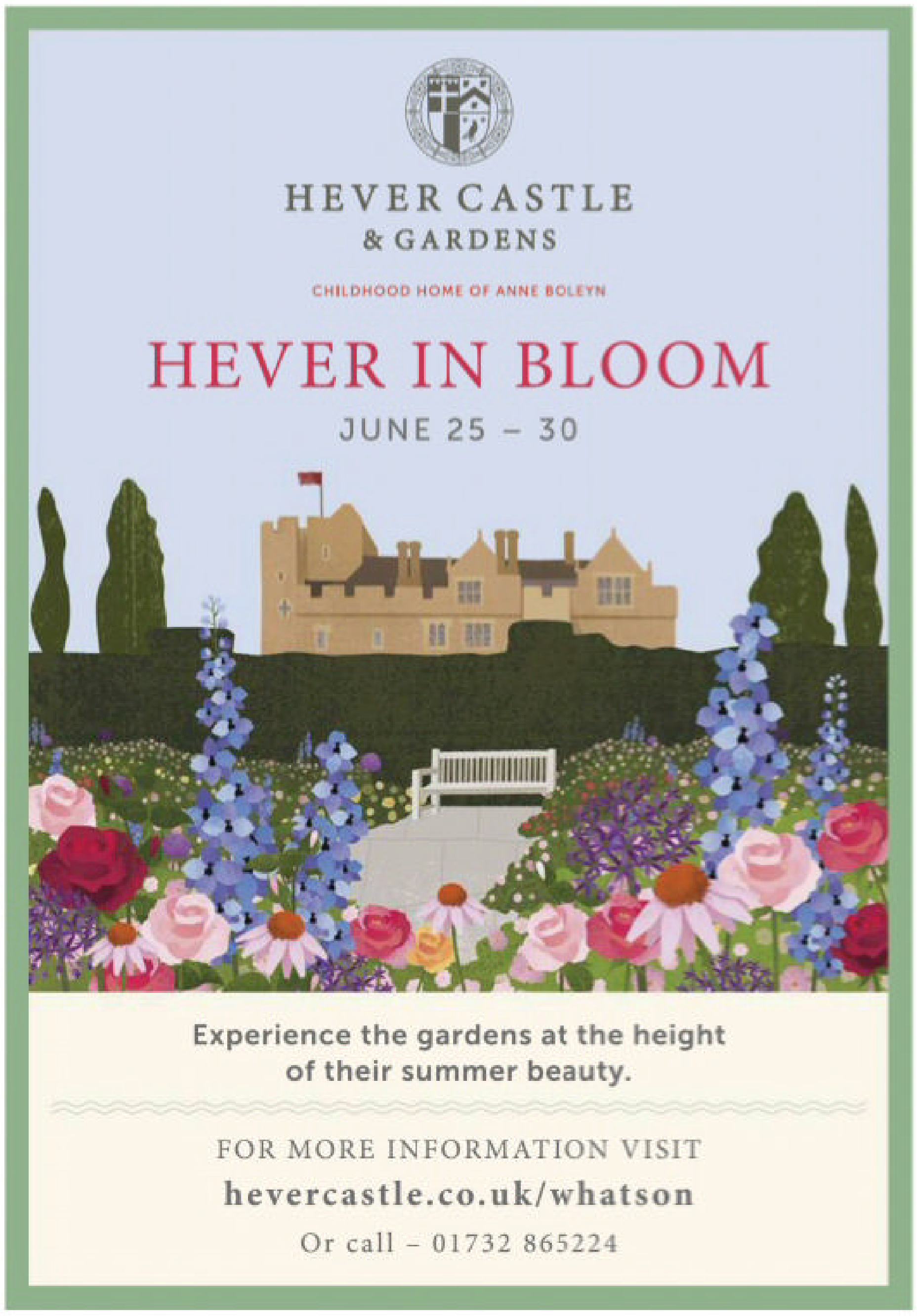

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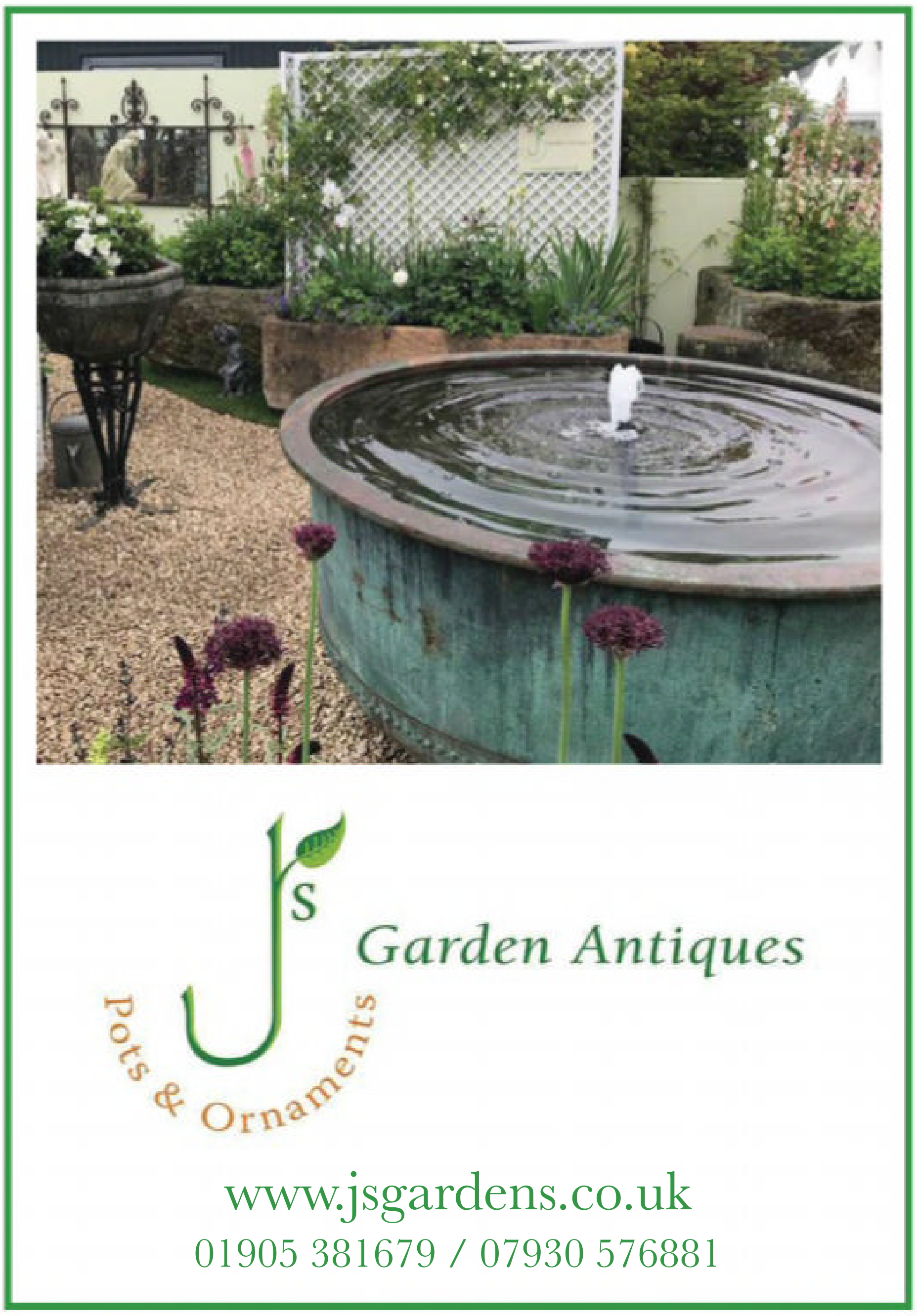

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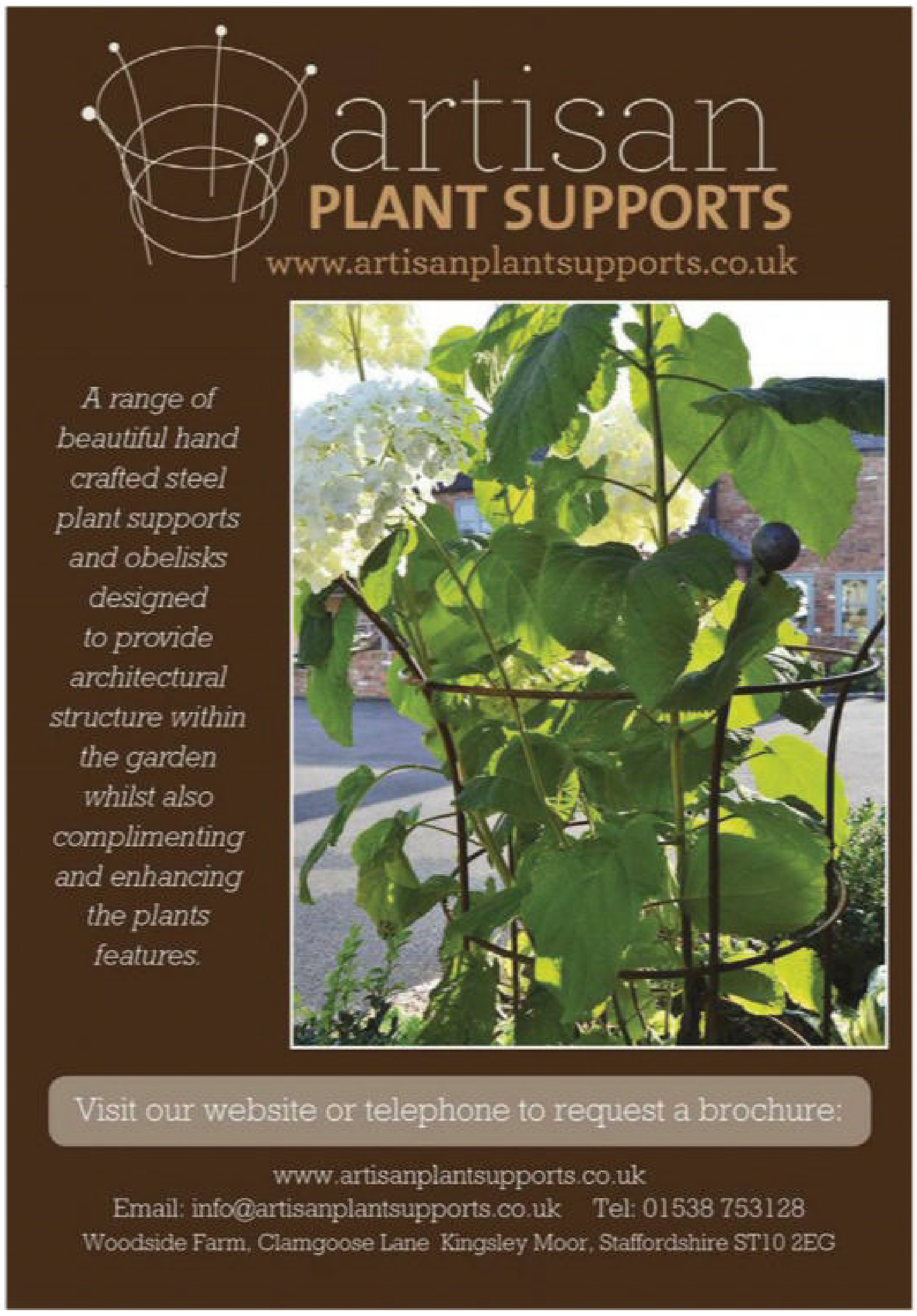

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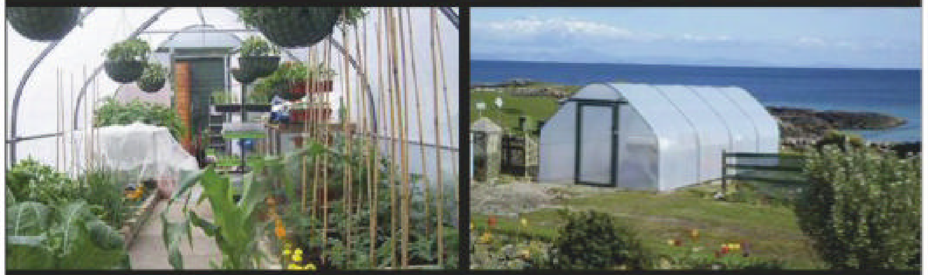

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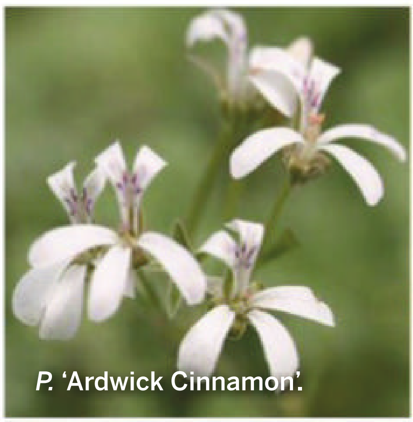
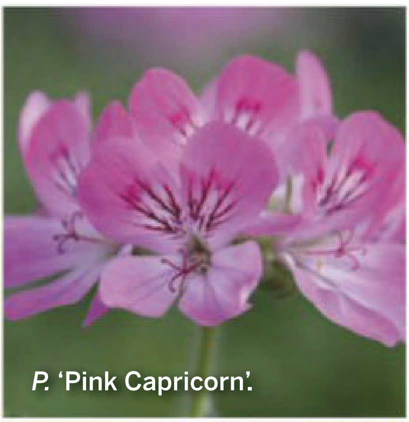
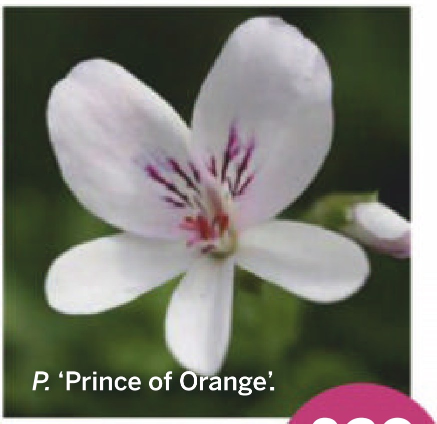
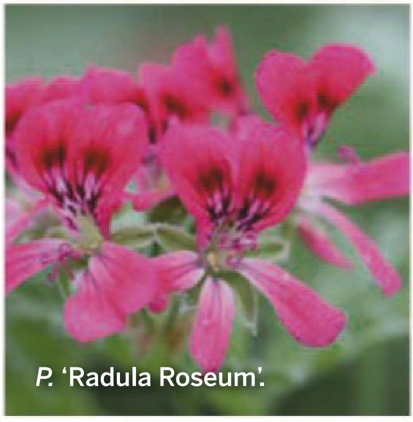
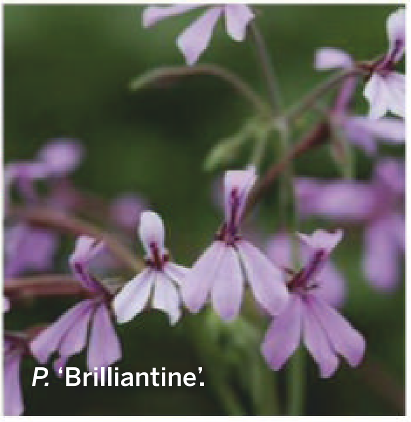

P. 'Ardwick Cinnamon'.


P. 'Pink Capricorn'.


P. 'Prince of Orange'.


P. 'Radula Roseum'.


P. 'Brilliantine'.

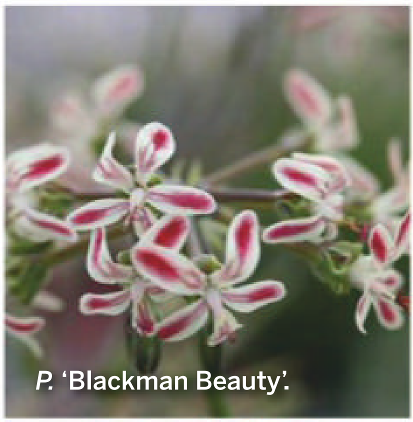
£20
plus £6.50 p&p

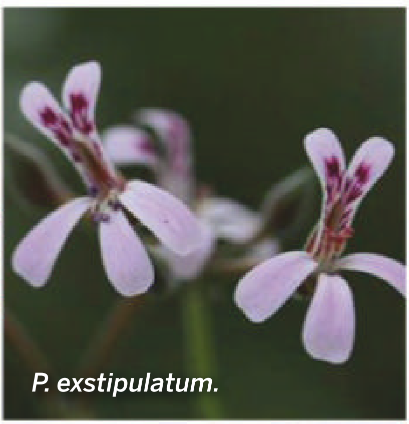
Scented Collection

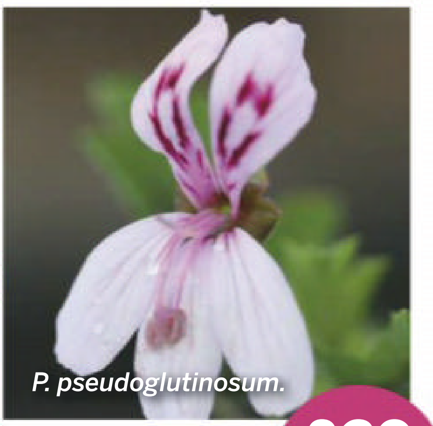
5 x 9cm plants

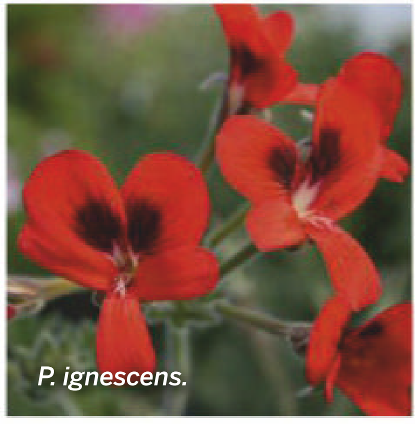
P. 'Ardwick Cinnamon'
P. 'Pink Capricorn'
P. 'Prince of Orange'
P. 'Radula Roseum'
P. 'Brilliantine'

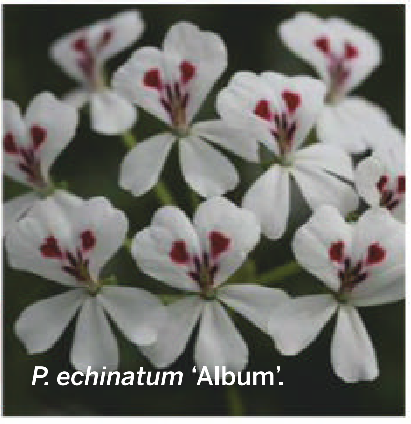
'Ardwick Cinnamon' Intense silver, filigreed foliage with a cinnamon scent. Small white flowers. H30cm. **'Pink Capricorn'** Vivid pink flowers with strong feathered markings on upper petals. Soft moss-green trilobed foliage scented of rose. H30cm. **'Prince of Orange'** White flowers with faintest pink blush on the upper petals. Mid green, strongly orange scented leaves, small in form. H35cm. **'Radula Roseum'** Large, striking magenta-pink flowers. Dark feathers on the upper two. Large grey-green leaves with a spicy/rose scent. H40cm. **'Brilliantine'** Elegant, lavender-pink flowers on long stems. Long and late flowering. Crimped grey-green leaves strongly scented of eau de cologne. H20cm.


P. 'Blackman Beauty'.


P. exstipulatum.


P. pseudoglutinosum.


P. ignescens.


P. echinatum 'Album'.

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plus £6.50 p&p

Species Collection

5 x 9cm plants

P. 'Blackman Beauty'
P. exstipulatum
P. pseudoglutinosum
P. ignescens
P. echinatum 'Album'

P.* 'Blackman Beauty'** Highly unusual with fern-like foliage held on thick trunks, almost like a bonsai form. Elegant, white flowers with central red stripe. H40cm. ***P. exstipulatum Profuse, small, clear-pink flowers with dainty, sticky, silver leaves on stems that often redden with age. A light spicy scent. H40cm. ***P. pseudoglutinosum*** Pale-pink flowers with very elongated bottom petals. Unusual jagged foliage with a dark brown centre. Rare in cultivation. H60cm. ***P. ignescens*** Light scarlet flowers with dark markings on upper two petals. Soft green leaves. H35cm. ***P. echinatum* 'Album'** Tall stems of white flowers with vivid red markings on upper petals. Small, soft, grey-green leaves top the thorny stems. H40cm.

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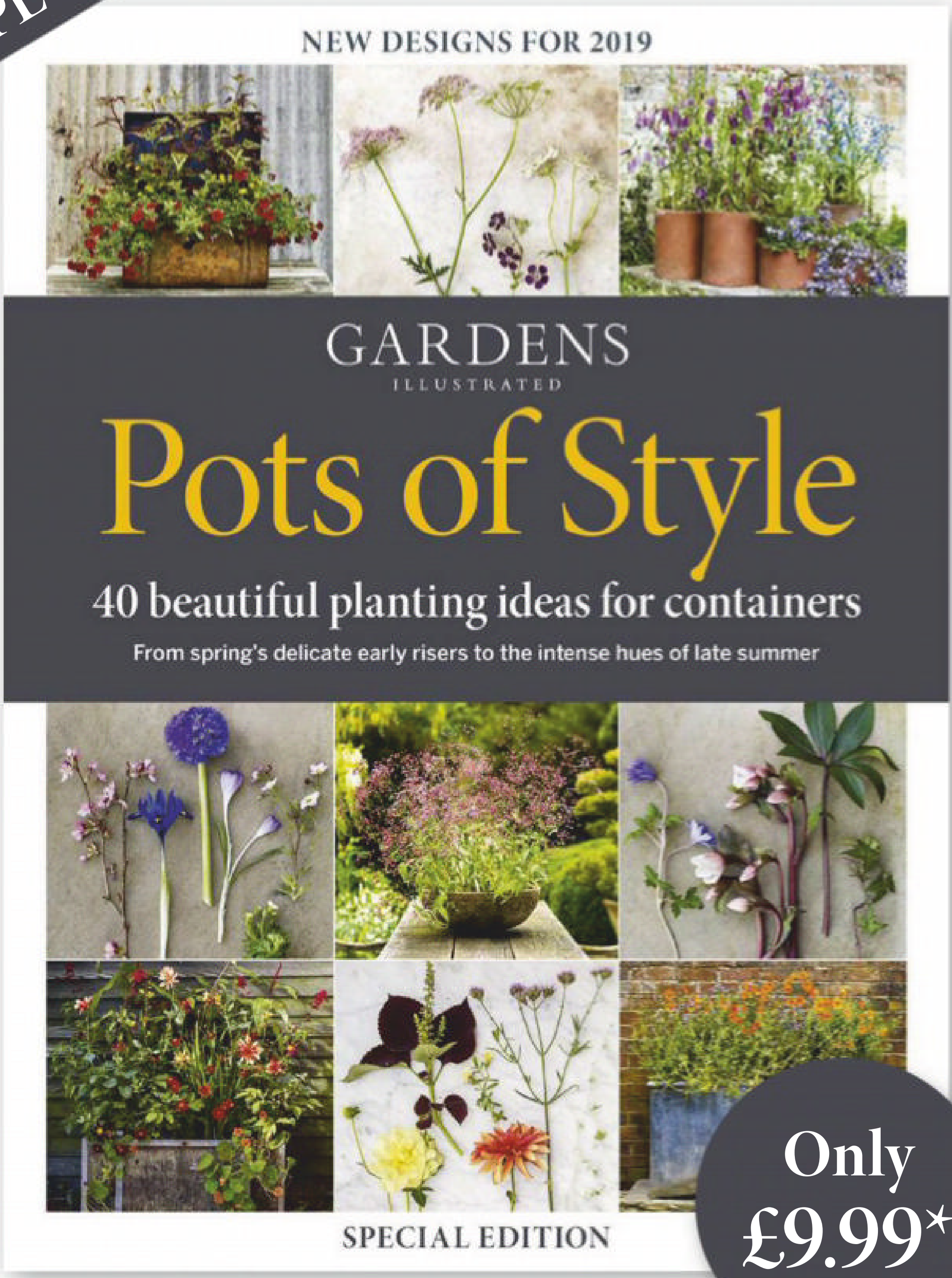

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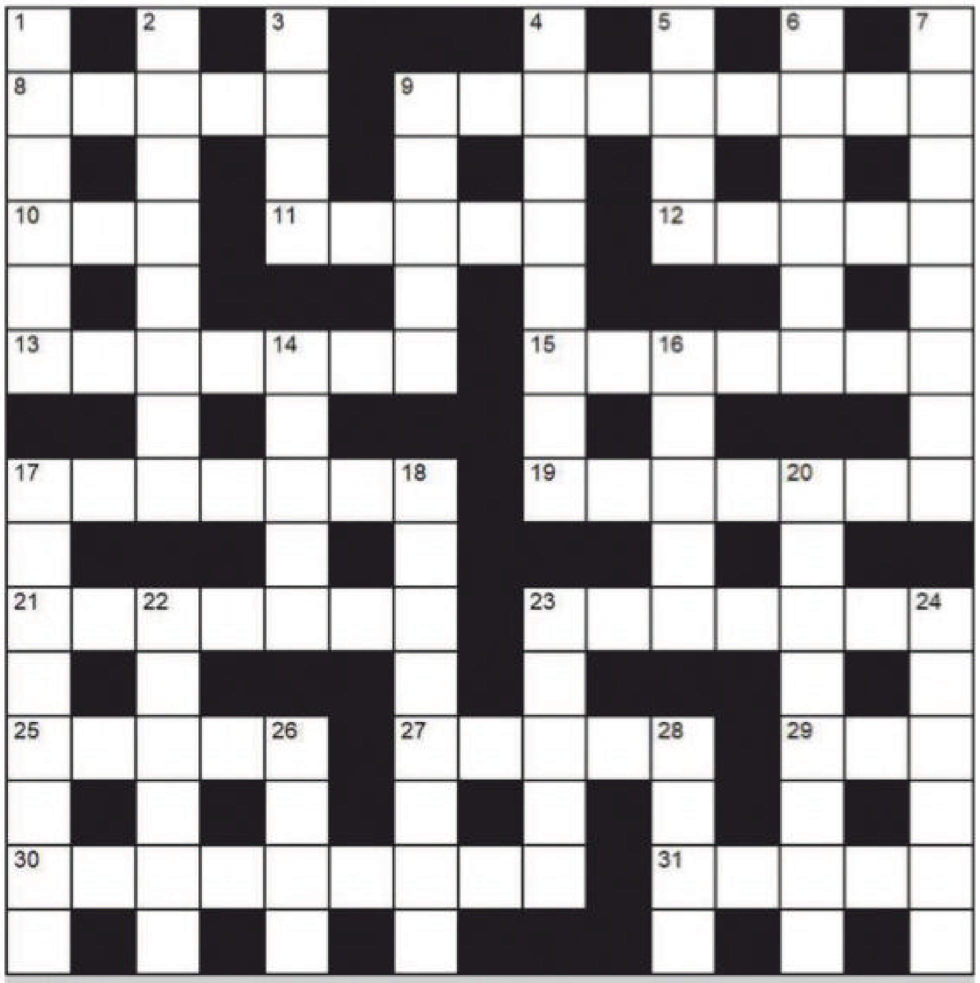
Crossword



ACROSS

8 Flowering foliage plant attractive to slugs (5)

9 Roy, renowned plantsman – associated with a red rose? (9)

10 Type of grass – sounds ironic (3)

11 Dwarf French bean – one inclined to wander?

12 See 14 down

13 Classic old hybrid rose – and whiskey (7)

15 Pink-flowering, white-edged tulip: label 'DA' variety (7)

17 Eg apple's skin – possibly 'Praecox' (7)

19 I, er, buy a different genus within the *Aster* family (7)

21 A gourd that's horrifically exploited at end of October (7)

23 Genus of plants aka 'Gayfeather' – one in trials, perhaps (7)

25 A cornflower leaf is ___ -shaped (5)

27 Tea rose with large blooms – and symbol of love (5)

29 Garden tool seen in phoenix (3)

30 A tree that doesn't shed its leaves is always eco-friendly? (9)

31 Aromatic herb is part of healthy meal (5)

DOWN

1 A pale pink/mauve delphinium – angelic thing! (6)

2 Borage relative, 'madwort', produces rogue sap (8)

3 Type of linen cultivated in the garden? (4)

4 Holly fruits are… not a consumer item! (8)

5 See 9 down

6 Pollen-receiving part of flower (6)

7 Genus of houseplant commonly called 'dragon tree' (8)

9/5 Perennial herb with citrus scent – *Melissa officinalis* (5,4)

14/12 Rich red chocolate-coloured sunflower – 'Evil sorcery'? (5,5)

16 A caterpillar, for one, found in medlar variety (5)

17 Fruit tree trained against a wall (8)

18 Clusters of flowerheads… twisted in places (8)

20 Genus of thistle-like plant in *Aster* family – a key herb sort (8)

22 Pink-flowering *Weigela* that's a dwarf – oddly minute! (6)

23 Plant of legume family with tall flower spikes (5)

24 Small, tender broad bean variety's 3D sound

26 Flowerbed generally includes a border (4)

28 Tree fruit for an assignation? (4)

Solutions to this month's crossword will be printed next month

SOLUTIONS TO APRIL'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Lucifer **5** Mescal **8** Oberon **9** Cerinthe **10** Blet **11** Beech **12** Iron **13** Kansas **14** Phoenix **16** Glacier **18** Purple **21** Smut **22** Charm **23** Mast **26** Punnet **27** Isatis **28** Taproot.

DOWN 1 Label **2** Carlton **3/25** Fan training **5** March **6** Sunrise **7** Aphrodite **11** Blade **13** Kalimeris **15** Haulm **17** Catmint **19** Pimento **20** Margot **22** Chits **24/4** Sweet rocket **26** Pip.

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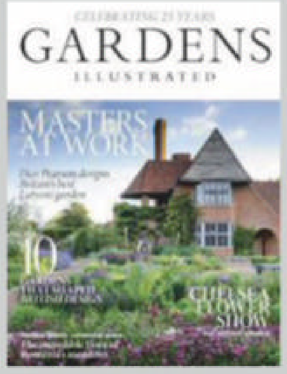

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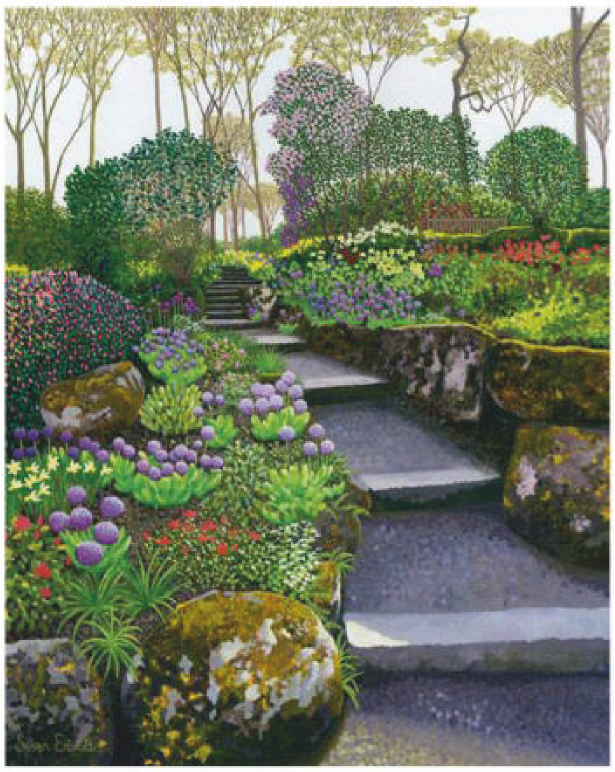

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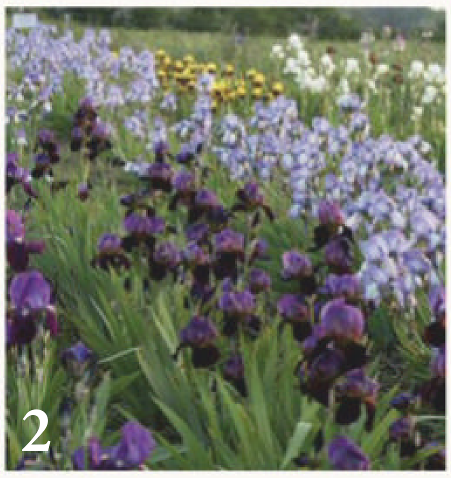
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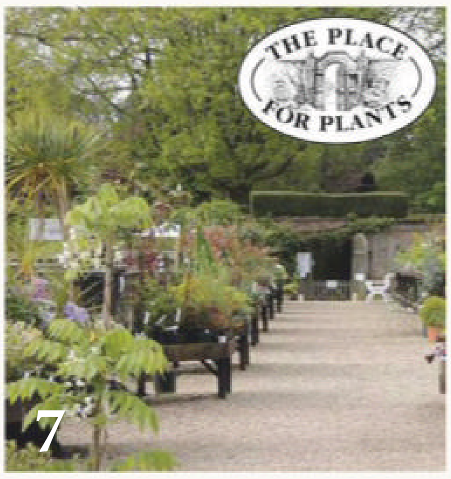
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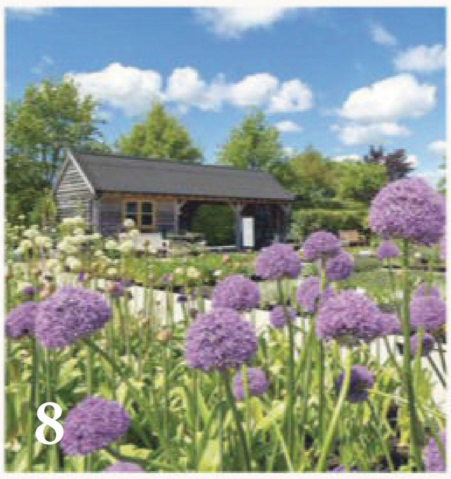
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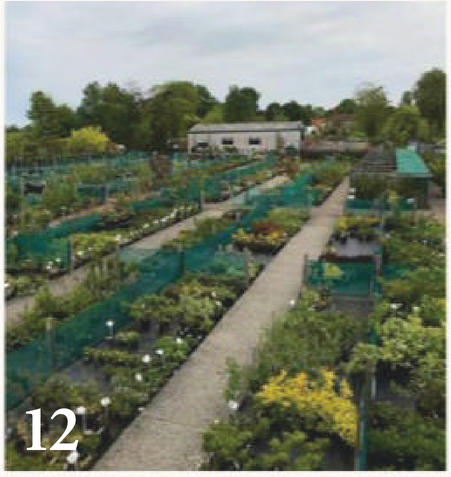
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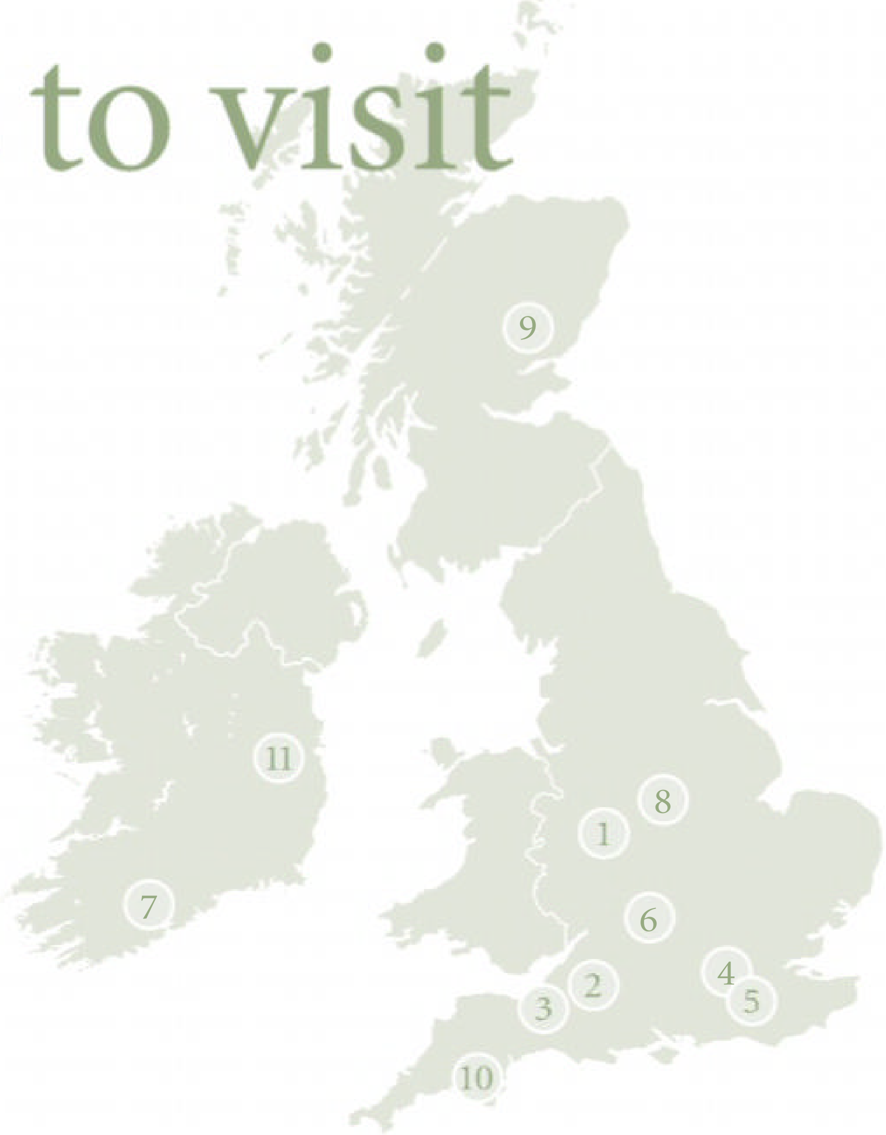
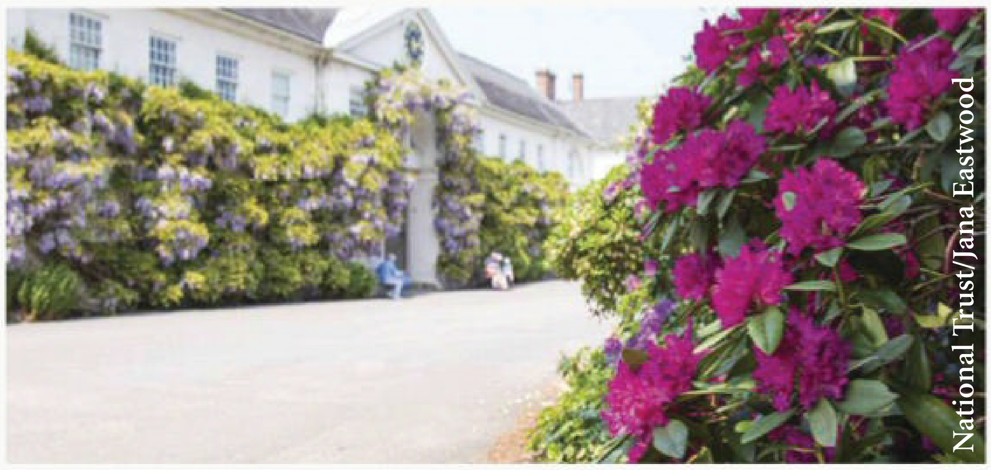
Spring gardens to visit

Spring is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens

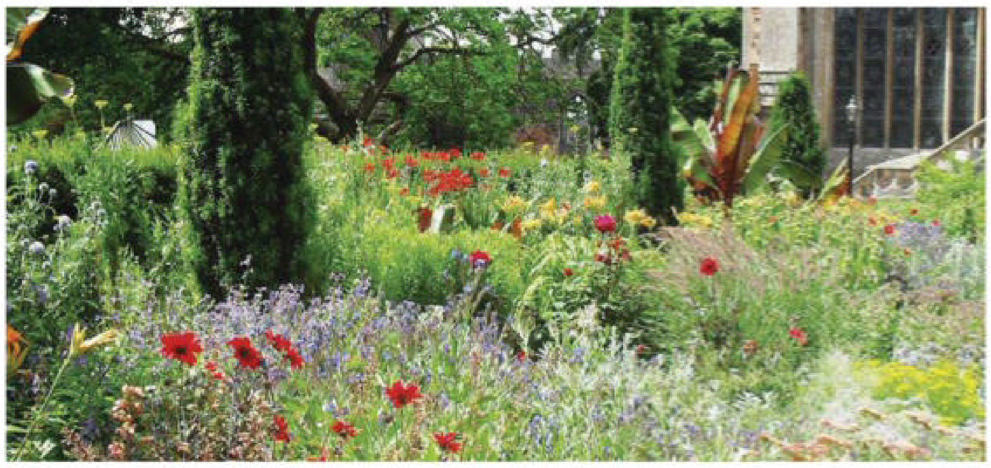



National Trust/Jana Eastwood

1 SHUGBOROUGH ESTATE

Home to a formal garden, walled garden and arboretum, there are plenty of places to enjoy the colours of spring at Shugborough Estate. Take a walk around this National Trust property in Staffordshire, and marvel at the daffodils along the river and the winding wisteria climbing the clock tower.

Milford, Staffordshire ST17 0XB | nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate



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3 HESTERCOMBE GARDENS

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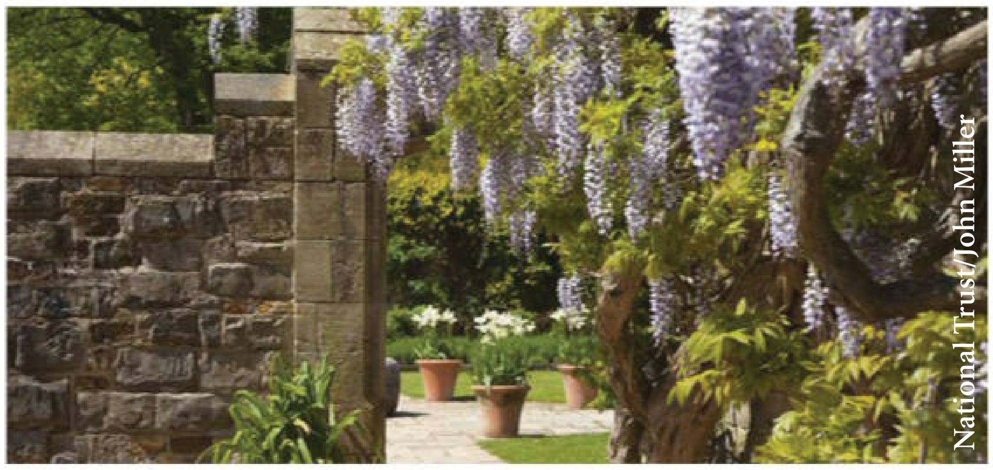
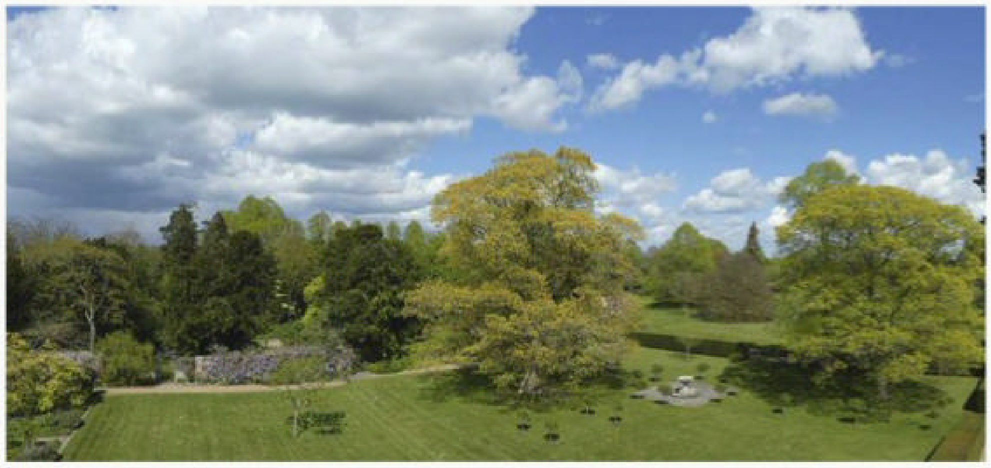

National Trust/John Miller

5 NATIONAL TRUST NYMANS

Wisterias are a feature of this spring time garden, from the wisteria wrapped around the pergola in the Wall Garden to the show stopping 100 year old wisteria on the Croquet Lawn. Colourful displays of Rhododendrons edge lawns and line pathways, revealing glimpses of the ruins beyond.

Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EB | nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans



6 KINGSTON BAGPUIZE HOUSE & GARDEN

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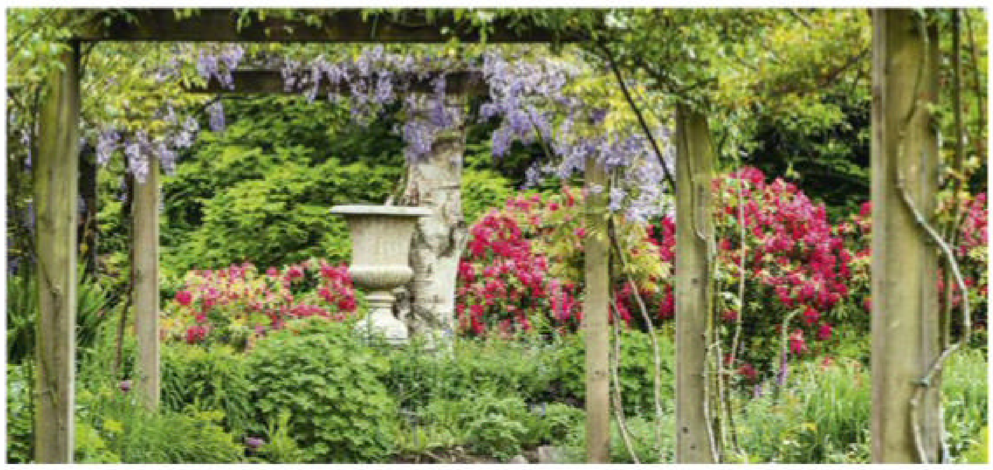

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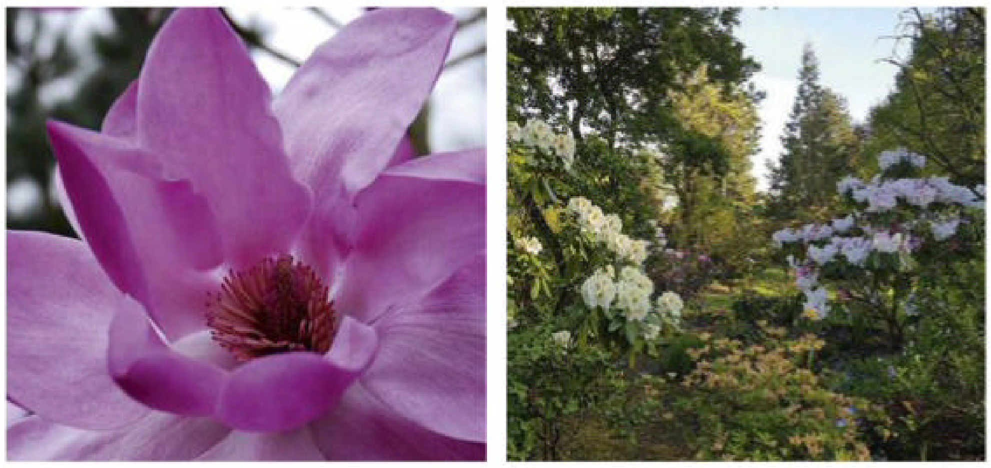

8 BLUEBELL ARBORETUM & NURSERY

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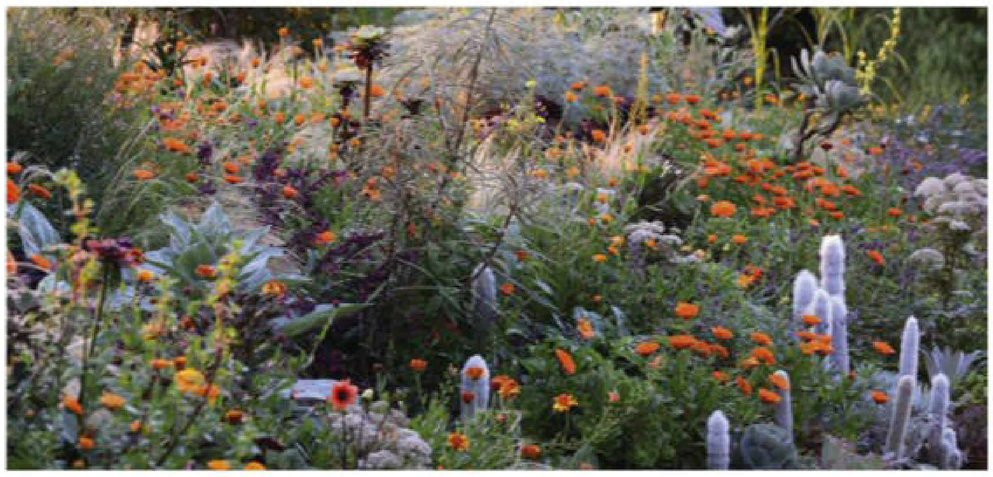
Ivybridge, South Devon PL21 0JF | 01752 691749 | lukesland.co.uk



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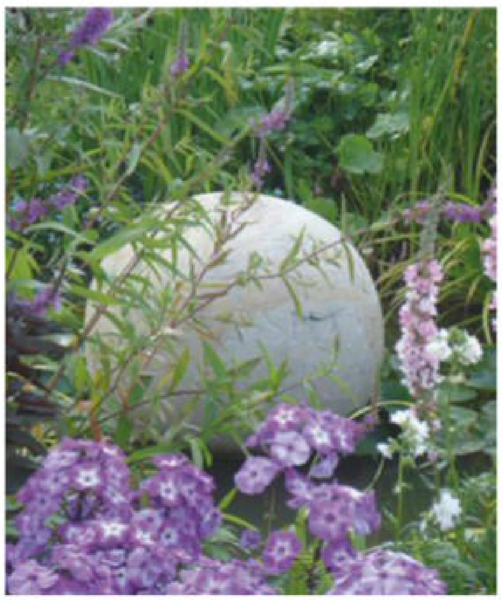

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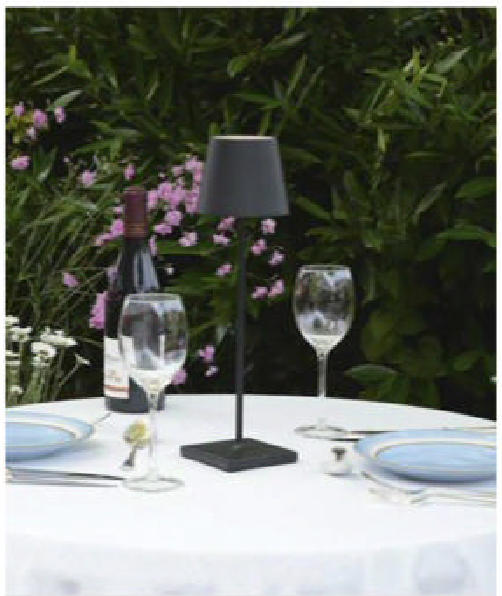

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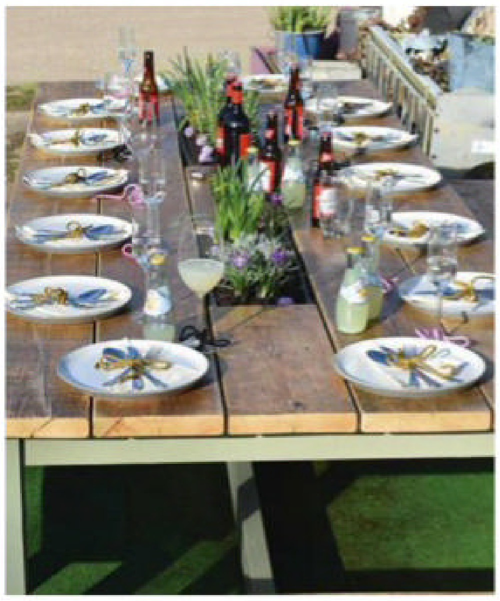

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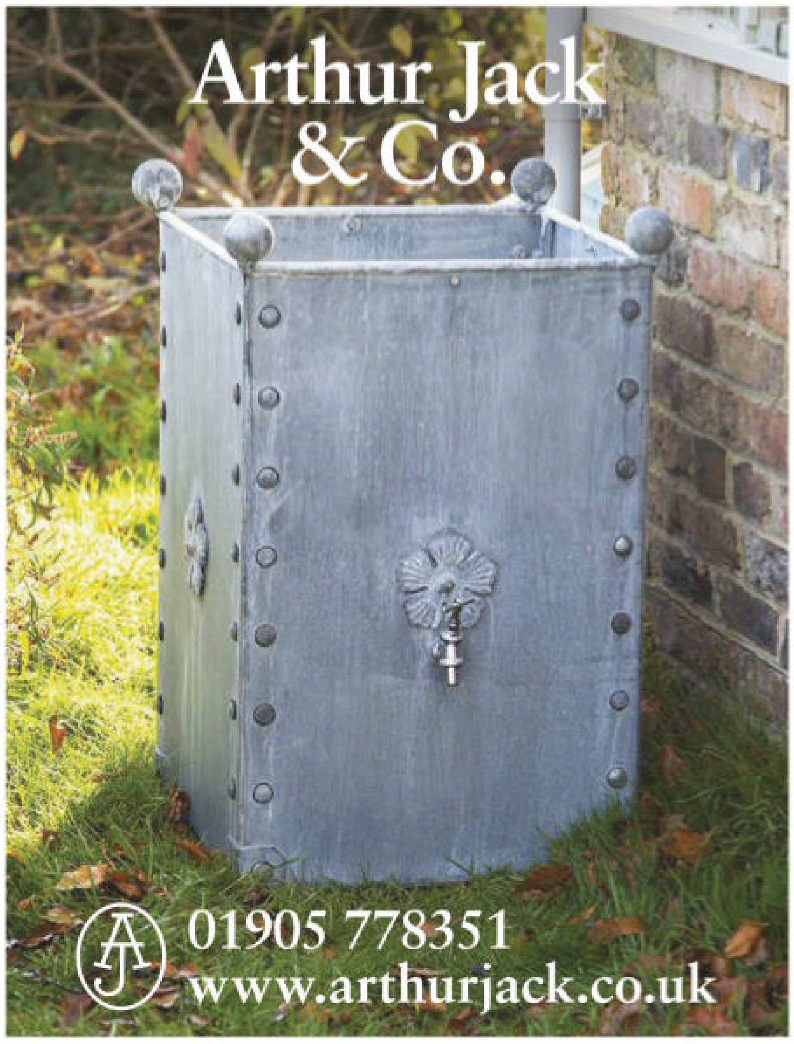
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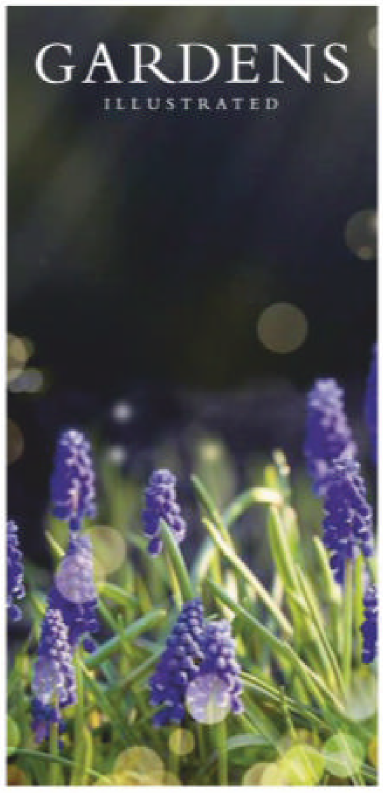

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Canterbury Cathedral Plant Fair & NGS Gardens open
2pm-5pm, Adm (www.canterbury-cathedral.org)
11 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH

Sunday **9th June**
Specialist Plant Fair Sussex Prairies,
12am-5pm, Adm £8 Fair & Garden
Wheatsheaf Rd, Henfield, W.Sussex BN5 9AT

Sunday **23rd June**
Summer Plant Fair, Hall Place & Gardens,
10am-3pm, Adm Free
Bourne Rd, Bexley DA5 1PQ

Sunday **21st July**
Summer Plant Fair, Chawton House,
11am-4pm, Adm £5 Fair & Garden
Chawton, Alton, Hants GU34 1SJ

Sunday **25th Aug**
Summer Plant Fair, The Walled Nursery,
11am-4pm, Adm £2
Water Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 5DH

Sunday **15th Sept**
Autumn Plant Fair, Borde Hill Garden,
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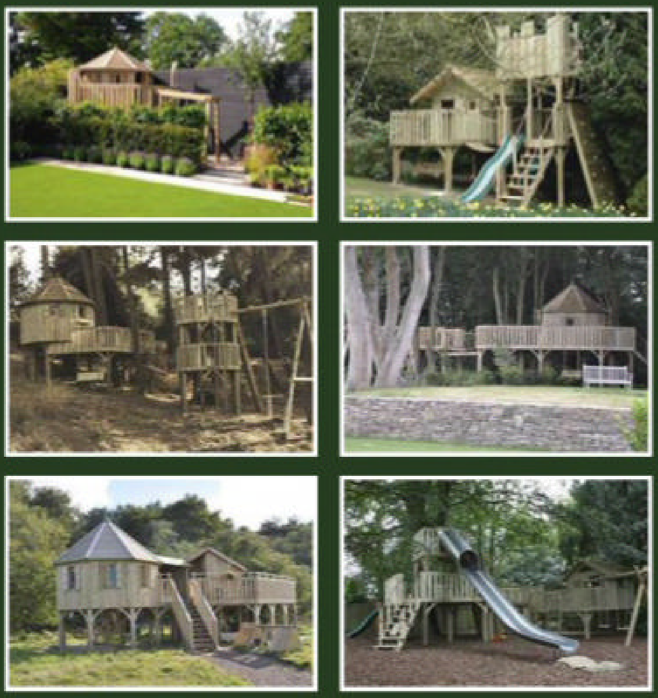

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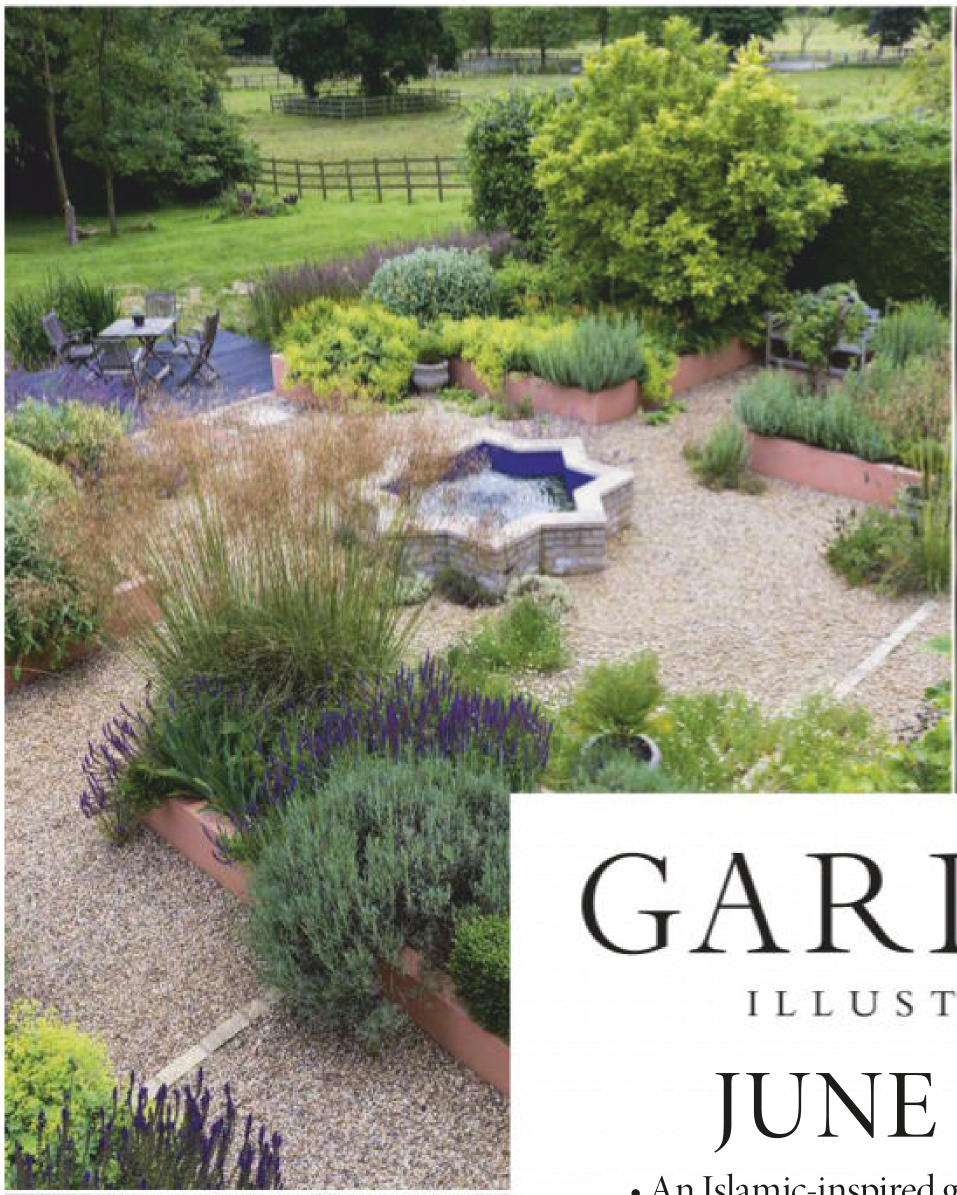

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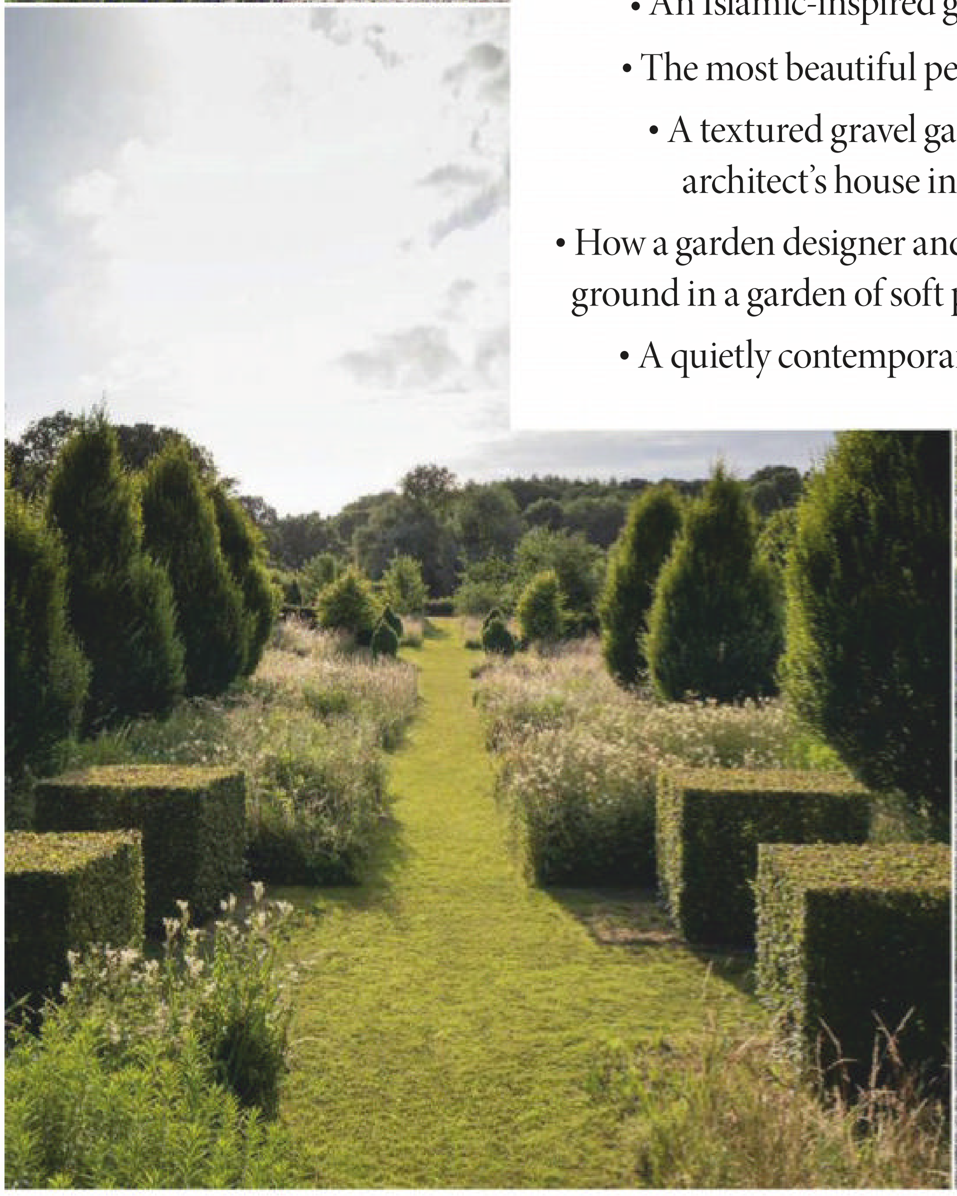
JUNE ISSUE

- An Islamic-inspired garden in rural Norfolk
- The most beautiful penstemons to plant now
- A textured gravel garden surrounding an architect's house in southeast London
- How a garden designer and a botanist found common ground in a garden of soft planting and sharp topiary
- A quietly contemporary Oxford town garden



RICHARD BLOOM, JASON INGRAM

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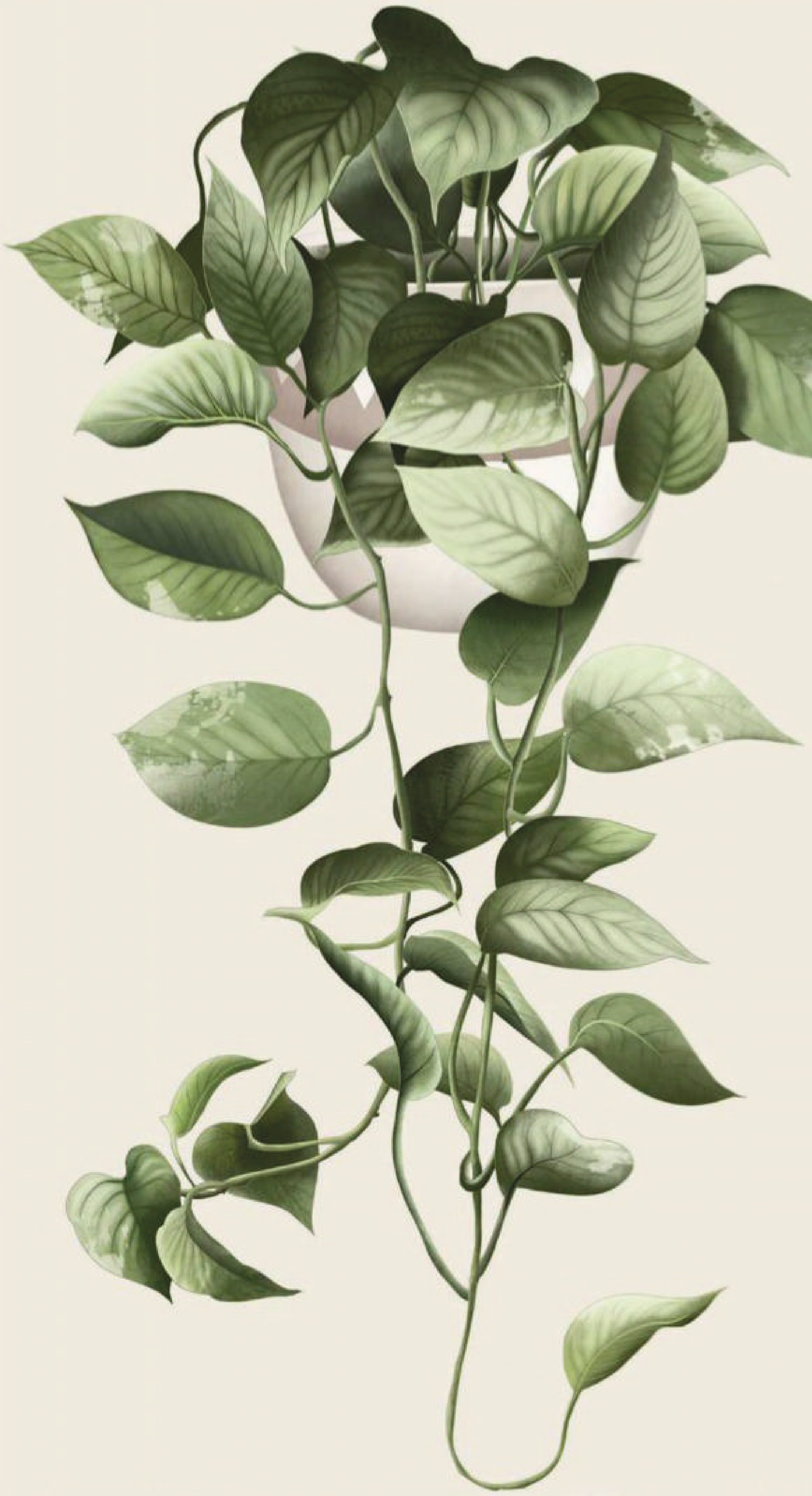

EPIPREMNUM AUREUM

HOUSEPLANTS

The Great Indoors

A glossy, evergreen climber with heart-shaped leaves, epipremnums produce glamorous trailing growth

WORDS JESS SNOWBALL
ILLUSTRATION AGATA WIERZBICKA

Sometimes known as golden pothos or the devil's ivy *Epipremnum aureum* (formerly known as *Scindapsus aureus*), is a creeping, evergreen climber from the Araceae family, and has 15 accepted species that range in origin from India all the way to French Polynesia. Epipremnums have the reputation of being the most indestructible houseplants in existence, able to grow in low light levels and low humidity and with minimal attention. *E. aureum*, which is native to just one Tahitian island, has the exceptional ability to propagate itself from any bit of stem and will root in almost any soil conditions. Its popularity as a houseplant, however, is an interesting example of how there can often be a gap between a plant's desirability when grown in a pot on a shelf and when found growing in the wild. Where it has become naturalised it is destructive and invasive. In the tropical forests of Hawaii and Sri-Lanka in particular, epipremnums have taken over the forest floors, covering trunks of larger trees and blocking out the light. As epiphytes, they use their aerial roots to scramble up anything they come into contact with and, by monopolising the forest understorey, they pose a threat to forest ecology.

Epipremnums have attractive, glossy, heart-shaped leaves that can be dark-green, or variegated with yellow or white, sometimes on the same plant. In three years of growing, my own epipremnum has given me just over a metre of glamorous, trailing growth. It keeps on growing, with minimal care, and offers the perfect opportunity for creativity. The trailing vines can be hung on hooks like paperchains to decorate bare walls.

They grow best in temperatures between 18-24°C but can tolerate anything down to 10°C in winter. In full shade, growth is slower and in sun it is significantly quicker. Avoid overwatering to reduce the risk of rot, and always let the pot dry before watering again. You will need to water more over the summer months, roughly once a week, but if your plant's leaves turn yellow you're watering it too much; if they start to wilt or turn brown, it probably needs water. Plants can tolerate short periods of drought so it's always best to underwater than overwater.

During the growing season, feed with a liquid-based, balanced fertiliser, but beware, the more you feed an epipremnum, the more vigorously it will grow. If you feel your plant is getting a little out of control, you can prune it at any time. Depending on the size of the plant it can either be thinned (by removing a third of stems down to the base) or reduced in length by cutting just below a node. To reflect its natural habit, avoid making multiple cuts around the same length. As this plant is a vigorous climber, you can prune to suit the space in which it lives, and create a bushier plant overall. Be aware that epipremnums are toxic to dogs and cats, and can also irritate skin.

Propagation

Propagation is straightforward. With any bit of stem you can create an entirely new plant using just water. This can be done any time of year, but it will take longer for roots to appear in the winter. Using sharp snips or a propagation knife, select a piece of stem from the parent plant and cut just above a node. With this piece of stem, or propagule, make a second, final cut just below a node and remove the lowest pair of leaves. Place in a small jar of water by a window. The length of stem can vary, I usually pick a 15-20cm tip piece, which will cascade nicely out of the vessel. When roots begin to fill the majority of the pot (roughly four to six weeks), pot on leaving room for root growth. Use a well-aerated, loam-based or peat-alternative compost, such as John Innes No.2, with added perlite or grit to provide adequate drainage.

As well as *Epipremnum aureum*, which has recognisable green and yellow markings on its leaves, there are two cultivars that have remarkable colour arrangements. *Epipremnum pinnatum* 'Marble Queen' has beautiful white leaves with hints of subtle green, while *Epipremnum aureum* 'Neon' has bright lime-green leaves that truly catch the eye. □

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Jess Snowball is glasshouse manager at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London.

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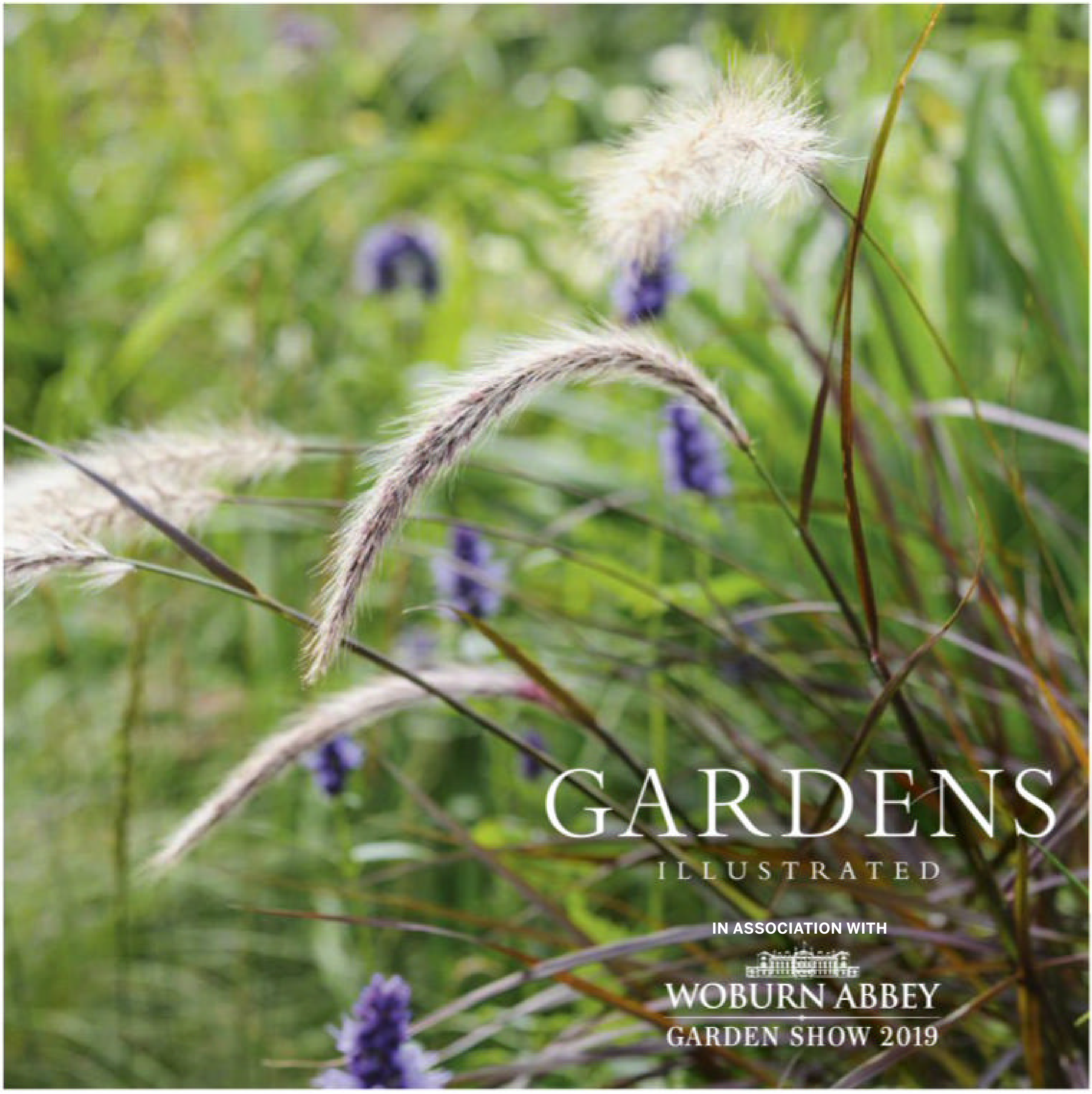

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The UK is fortunate to have a remarkable heritage of nurserymen and plant collectors, and many of the nurseries included here are traditional, family-run businesses, handed down from one generation to the next. Many propagate and grow all their own plants or source their stock from British and local suppliers. Where noted they favour peat-free compost and recyclable pots.

While it may not offer the pleasure of a visit in person, ordering online can be an excellent way to support smaller, specialist suppliers, and it's thrilling to pull the tape from a box of beautifully wrapped, carefully nurtured plants that have been delivered to your door.

I hope you will find the *Gardens Illustrated 100 Best Independent Nurseries* guide useful throughout the year,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, *GARDENS ILLUSTRATED* EDITOR

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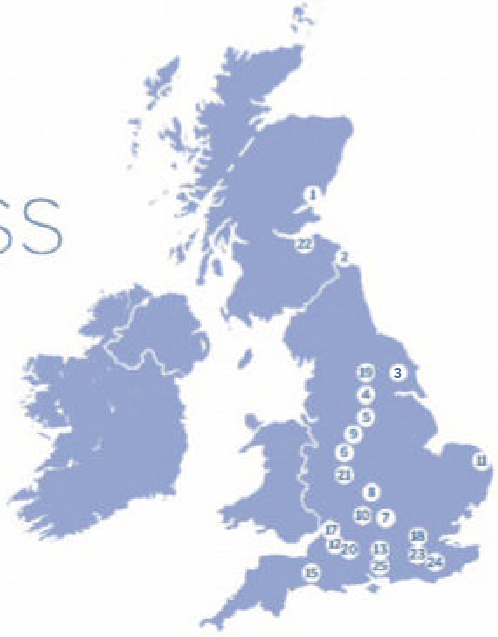

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The Rabbit's Eye View learning about long term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY £140
The Coach House, Gloucestershire (10)
Working a Concept through to Completion a garden design workshop with Annie Guilfoyle

TUESDAY 28 & WEDNESDAY 29 MAY €300
*please note Euros
Col de la Gineste & Mèze, Southern France
Lessons in the Landscape a two day workshop with Helen & James Basson & Olivier Filippi

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE £160
Thenford Arboretum, Northamptonshire (8)
Choosing Trees with John Grimshaw

TUESDAY 18 JUNE £140
Chatsworth Gardens, Derbyshire (9)
Beauty and Biodiversity, Water and Well Being: Integrating Art and Ecology for Sustainable Gardens with Dr Nigel Dunnett

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Hillside Gardens, Somerset (17)
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East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens, Norfolk (11)
An introduction to Roses with Michael Marriott

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Bury Court, Hampshire (13)
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WEDNESDAY 3 JULY €150 *please note Euros
Vlinderhof, Utrecht, Netherlands
Piet Oudolf's Planting Style How does he do it? with Noel Kingsbury

FRIDAY 5 JULY £150 (10.30AM–5PM)
Forde Abbey, Dorset (15)
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Green and Gorgeous, Oxfordshire (7)
Growing Perennials as Cut Flowers with Rachel Siegfried

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FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER £140
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or email gardenmasterclass@gmail.com

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The Botanic Nursery

Colourful *Digitalis purpurea* 'Gloxinioides' are a feature at this nursery. Don't miss the Foxglove Days.

JASON INGRAM

South West

Avon Bulbs

A jewel box of a nursery, specialising in bulbs (and a good seed selection, too). Extensive range of interesting spring- and summer-flowering bulbs. Snowdrops in the green, alliums, dahlias and lilies, all available alongside more unusual offerings. Regular show goers and indeed award winners. Orders and sales can be made at shows or online.

ADDRESS (A) Burnt House Farm, Mid Lambrook, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5HE.
TEL (T) 01460 242177
EMAIL (E) info@avonbulbs.co.uk
WEBSITE (W) avonbulbs.co.uk
OPENING TIMES (O) Find them at a garden show or plant fair. Check website for details.
MAIL ORDER AVAILABLE (✉)

The Botanic Nursery

Owner Terry Baker's primary passion lies with foxgloves and his displays at shows are always attention grabbing. The nursery also has a good selection of hollyhocks and peonies. Lots of other garden-worthy plants too. Don't miss the nursery's Foxglove Days (following the RHS Chelsea Flower Show), with talks, sales and tours.

A Coombe Lane, Atworth, Wiltshire SN12 8NU.
T 07850 328756
E office@botanicnursery.co.uk
W thebotanicnursery.co.uk
O Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm. ✉

Bowdens Nursery

What started out as a nursery specialising in hostas has now combined with other world-leading nurseries to include collections of agapanthus (Pine Cottage Plants), bamboo (PW Plants) and hardy ferns (Rickards Hardy Ferns). There's a lot of expertise here.

A Bowden Place, Sticklepath, Okehampton, Devon EX20 2NL.
T 01837 840989 **E** sales@bowdenhostas.com
W bowdenhostas.com
O Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, April to September. ✉

Broadleigh Bulbs

Leading bulb nursery with over 40 years of expertise, established by renowned plantswoman Christine Skelmersdale. Special interest in small bulbs including cyclamen, snowdrops, daffodils and woodlanders. Primarily mail order with two catalogues a year giving the full list of spring and autumn planted species, but the display garden is open to visitors and is an excellent way to gain inspiration. Active show circuit attendee, too.

A Barr House, Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1AE.
T 01823 286231 **E** info@broadleighbulbs.co.uk
W broadleighbulbs.co.uk
O Five-acre demonstration garden and nursery open for charity, Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm (except Bank Holidays). Limited sales table. ✉

Burncoose Nurseries

Part of the Caerhays Estate famed for its magnolias and rhododendrons, Burncoose Nurseries sells some of the most interesting shrubs, trees and ornamental plants, many of which have been bred in the gardens and propagated on to make them available for sale. There's also a 30-acre woodland garden to visit.

A Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ.
T 01209 860316
E info@burncoose.co.uk
W burncoose.co.uk
O Daily, 8.30am-5pm (Sunday, 11am-5pm). ✉

Dorset Water Lily Company

Leading aquatics nursery offering a wide range of tropical and hardy waterlilies, water marginals, and moisture-loving and bogside plants. Most of the plants are grown at the nursery, so are fully familiar to staff. Design and planting service available.

A Yeovil Road, Halstock, Yeovil,
Somerset BA22 9RR.
T 01935 891668 **E** dorsetwaterlily@uwclub.net
W dorsetwaterlily.co.uk
O Monday, Friday, Saturday, 9.30am-4pm, March to September. Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm, winter.

Duchy of Cornwall Nursery

This is a good all-round nursery, selling a dependable range of garden-worthy plants – wherever possible sourced from local growers. Good general advice on getting the most from your plants – and a rather good café too. See page 13 for planting ideas from the team.

A Cott Road, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0HW.
T 01208 872668
E sales@duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk
W duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk
O Daily, 9am-5pm (Sunday, 10am-5pm). ✉

Groves Nurseries and Garden Centre

A heritage of over 150 years attests to this nursery's success. It was Groves that brought onion sets to the UK, following trails run with the Government in the 1960s, and, more recently, the nursery gained National Collection status for its *Viola odorata* and parma violets. These are hard to resist, but the nursery also stocks a good, solid range of trees, bedding plants, herbaceous plants and roses.

A West Bay Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4BA.
T 01308 422654
E sales@grovesnurseries.co.uk
W grovesnurseries.co.uk
O Daily, 8am-5pm (Sunday, 10am-4pm). ✉

Junker's Nursery

Hardy trees and shrubs are Karan Junker's specialism with a stock list including cornus, betulas, daphnes and acers – the garden has a dedicated Maple Glade and Woodland Walk – as well as less well-known summer-flowering magnolias. A recent relocation has allowed for more plants to be grown in open ground (rather than pots), encouraging healthier, non-constrained root systems.

A Higher Cobhay, Milverton, Somerset TA4 1NJ.
T 01823 400075
E karan@junker.co.uk
W junker.co.uk
O Open by appointment only. ✉

Kelways

One of the UK's oldest nurseries, trading for over 160 years, Kelways is renowned for its peonies (herbaceous, tree and intersectional), along with extensive collections of iris and hardy ferns, and a well-stocked garden centre. Visit the nursery's Peony Valley in June to see over 300 of the historic peonies from Kelways' back catalogue in flower.

A Picts Hill, Langport, Somerset TA10 9EZ.
T 01458 250521
E sales@kelways.co.uk
W kelways.co.uk
O Daily, 9am-5pm (Sunday, 9.30am-4pm). ✉

Knoll Gardens

Owner Neil Lucas has become renowned for his expertise in ornamental grasses and both the nursery's stock and inspirational show garden reflect his more naturalistic approach to planting. In fact, 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of Neil Lucas's ownership and a special programme of workshops and events will showcase the appeal and versatility of using grasses within the garden.

A Stapehill Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND.
T 01202 873931
E enquiries@knollgardens.co.uk
W knollgardens.co.uk
O Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm
(plus Bank Holiday Mondays).
Open until 4pm, November-March. ✉

Long Acre Plants

If you're after shade-loving plants, this is the place to look. You'll find grasses, hardy ferns, hellebores and an extensive range of unusual woodland plants. The nursery employs environmentally conscious growing techniques, using collected rain water and peat-free compost, and electricity generated by wind or hydro power.

A Charlton Musgrove, nr Wincanton,
Somerset BA9 8EX.
T 01963 32802
E info@longacreplants.co.uk
W plantsforshade.co.uk
O By appointment only, Monday to Friday. ✉

Lower Kenneggy Nurseries

Less than half a mile from the sea, on the west coast of Cornwall, the plants grown here thrive in the mild, wet and windy conditions of coastal areas. The nursery's wide range includes hedging plants and shelter plants as well as more exotic specimens.

A Rosudgeon, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 9AR.
T 01736 762959
E lowerkenneggynurseries@gmail.com
W lowerkenneggynurseries.co.uk
O Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm,
March to November.

Mallet Court Nurseries

A small family business selling rare and unusual trees and shrubs. The established nursery specialises in maples and oak, and there's a huge range on offer in its online catalogue.

A Marshway, Curry Mallet, Taunton,
Somerset TA3 6SZ.
T 01823 481493
E malletcourtnursery@btinternet.com
W malletcourt.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm. ✉

National Dahlia Collection

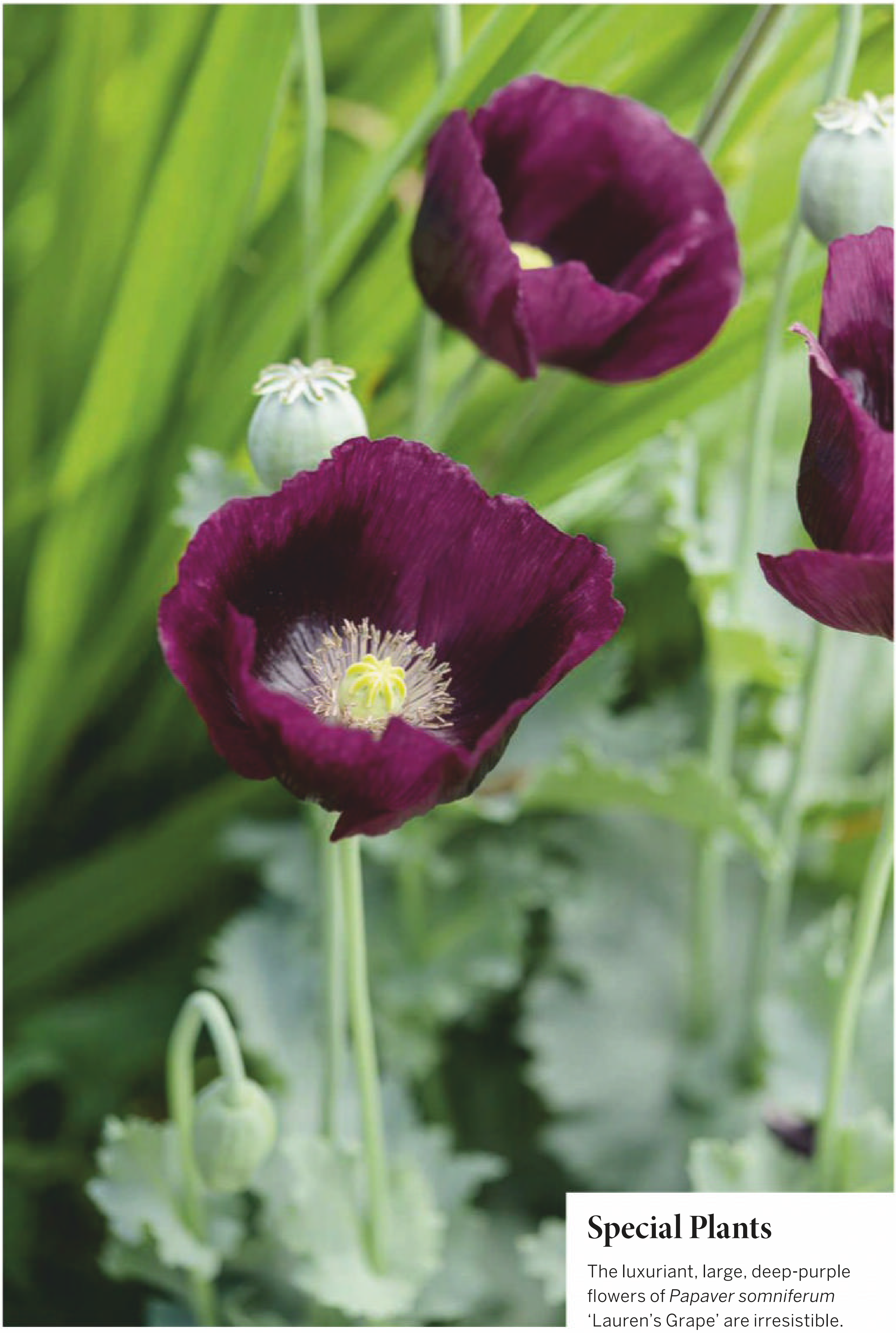
First established in 1983, the National Dahlia Collection has over 1,600 types of dahlia growing in its dahlia field. Dahlias are available to buy as rooted cuttings and tubers, and a select few are 'garden ready' and can be planted in the garden straight away.

A Varfell Farm, Longrock, Penzance,
Cornwall TR20 8AQ.
T 01736 339276
E info@nationaldahliacollection.co.uk
W nationaldahliacollection.co.uk
O Daily, 9am-5pm, mid-July to October,
on an 'open but unattended basis'. ✉

Special Plants

Owned by plantswoman Derry Watkins, Special Plants has an extensive range of plants for sale, including fresh seed collected from plants grown in the garden and nursery. Derry's choice of plants is excellent, and her own garden is open every Tuesday from April to October. The nursery also runs a series of full- and half-day gardening courses.

A Greenways Lane, Cold Ashton,
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 8LA.
T 01225 891686
E derry@specialplants.net
W specialplants.net
O Daily, 10am-5pm, March to October.
✉ Seed and accessories only.



JASON INGRAM

Special Plants

The luxuriant, large, deep-purple flowers of *Papaver somniferum* 'Lauren's Grape' are irresistible.

Surreal Succulents

The collection of plants at Surreal Succulents includes *Aeonium*, *Sempervivum*, *Echeveria*, *Crassula*, *Sedum*, *Aloe* and *Agave*, as well as palms, ferns, grasses and exotic rare plants. Hybrid forms of succulents are also available along with kits for making your own terrarium. Plant Fair held on 8 September.

A Tremenheere Nursery, Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens, Gulval, Cornwall TR20 8YL.
T 07548 010897
E info@surrealsucculents.co.uk
W surrealsucculents.co.uk
O Daily, 10.30am-4.30pm, April to October. Thursday-Sunday, 10am-4pm, November and December. ✉

Thornhayes Nursery

Known for its quality trees and shrubs, Thornhayes provides both pot- and field-grown trees in sizes ranging from whip to heavy standard. All the container stock is peat-free and is selected for disease resistance.

A St Andrews Wood, Dulford, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2DF.
T 01884 266746
E trees@thornhayes-nursery.co.uk
W thornhayes-nursery.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. Saturday, 9am-1pm. ✉

Trecanna Nursery

Benefiting from the warm climate in this part of the country, Trecanna Nursery, near Plymouth, grows South African plants, unusual bulbs and an impressive selection of *Crocosmia*. Find them at shows.

A The Old Barn, Chilsworthy, Cornwall PL18 9PB.
T 01822 834680
E mark@trecanna.com
W trecanna.com
O The nursery has recently moved and is not currently open to the public, although orders can be collected from shows. ✉

Trehane Nursery

Camellia and blueberry specialists, often introducing new camellias to the market. Ornamental grasses are another speciality.

A Stapehill Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND.
T 01202 873490
E office@trehanenursery.co.uk
W trehanenursery.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm. Plus Saturdays, 10am-4pm from February to April, and October to December. ✉

PLANTING IDEAS

HOLESINTHEWORLDSTUDIO

The team from Duchy of Cornwall Nursery

The team choose some of their favourite trees and shrubs – along with a couple of increasingly popular houseplants.

We're very much a team here, with everyone bringing their own expertise and enthusiasm to reflect the range of plants we offer. Today's gardeners can tend to focus first and foremost on perennials but trees and shrubs not only provide colour in season but also interest and structure throughout the year. We'd encourage every gardener to consider them in their planting plans.

- Find out more about Duchy of Cornwall Nursery on page 8.

TOP TIP

Trees and shrubs need a well-prepared planting hole to help get the roots established.

TEN FAVOURITES:
Trees, shrubs and houseplants

1 *Exochorda* x *macrantha* 'The Bride' Arching deciduous shrub. White, disc-shaped flowers in late spring or summer against pale-green leaves. 2.5m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b†.

2 *Grevillea* 'Canberra Gem' A unique combination of textures: rosemary-like foliage with curling clusters of rose-pink, tubular flowers from late winter to late summer. Thrives in poor, well-drained sandy loam, acid to neutral conditions. Drought- and shade-tolerant, and copes down to -10°C. A little bit of exotic Australian flora that can find a home in almost every British garden. 4m. AGM. RHS H4.

3 *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* Excellent all-year colour, with an attractive vase shape and catkins in spring. Even more impact when planted in threes. 18m. RHS H7, USDA 5a-6b.

4 *Prunus* 'Kursar' A great choice of early-flowering tree that is not too big. A combination of early pink flowers, autumn colour and delightful structure means this is a tree for all seasons. 8m. RHS H6.

5 Orchids are such an interesting and diverse family of plants. Many species have evolved mimicry to trick their pollinators, such as the bee orchids (*Ophrys* species.), which trick male bees by emitting a female bee scent.

6 *Pilea peperomioides* In terms of popularity, this is the modern-day spider plant with interesting round leaves, sometimes called the pancake plant. Easy to look after. 30cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

7 *Choisya* x *dewitteana* White Dazzler (='Londaz') This Mexican orange blossom is worth noting. It forms a dense mound with its evergreen, aromatic, thread-like leaves. Masses of clear-white, scented blooms develop in April and again in September. It prefers well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position. Can be pruned between flowerings, reaching a height of 1m in time. Good in pots. AGM. RHS H4.

8 *Rhododendron* 'Tinkerbird' Covered with pale-pink buds in spring, which soon open to large, scented, pure-white flowers, held well above olive-green, hairy leaves. Easy to grow in acid soil and semi-shade, it prefers slightly dry conditions in the winter. A nice compact cultivar. 80cm. RHS H4.

9 *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis* Flowering dogwood, often grown as a small, multi-stemmed tree. Cream-coloured bracts followed by strawberry-like fruit. Long seasonal interest as it also has good red autumn foliage colour. Best in soil on the acid side. 8m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b.

10 *Sorbus* Autumn Spire (='Flanrock') A small, very upright, branching tree, ideal for smaller gardens. Clusters of white flowers followed by amber-coloured berries. Red/purple autumn foliage. This lovely little rowan originated as a sport of the much larger-growing *Sorbus* 'Joseph Rock'. 7m. AGM. RHS H8

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Hardiness rating given where available.

ANNAICK GUITTENY

Edulis

A tempting selection of more unusual – but still easy-to-grow – perennials are on offer at Edulis (page 16).

South

Architectural Plants

Made up of eight large polytunnels and eight acres of outdoor displays, Architectural Plants started out because nursery founder Angus White had a love of sculptural, verdant plants that had year-round presence. The nursery has a superb collection of semi-mature trees and shrubs, as well as rare specimens propagated on site. There's also a sculpture garden, shop and lakeside walk to enjoy in the downtime between choosing plants.

A Stane Street, North Heath, Pulborough,
West Sussex RH20 1DJ.
T 01798 879213
E enquiries@architecturalplants.com
W architecturalplants.com
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.

Clifton Nurseries

A hidden gem, a stone's throw away from central London. Clifton Nurseries sells outdoor plants and houseplants, alongside stylish garden gifts and sundries. It has a second site in Surrey, which offers larger plants and an extensive range of luxury furniture and pots, and has a show garden on site to provide design inspiration. An online shop offers a small range of outdoor plants, mostly shrubs and topiary. New series of supper club events launching in May.

A 5A Clifton Villas, London W9 2PH.
T 020 7289 6851 **E** enquiry@clifton.co.uk
W clifton.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Sunday,
11am-5pm. ✉ Limited.

Daisy Roots

Tucked away in the grounds of a large private house on the outskirts of Hertford, Daisy Roots is a small-scale nursery selling hardy perennials and ornamental grasses. Annie Godfrey is the nursery's passionate owner, and she can offer ideas and advice on plants and garden design.

A Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford,
Hertfordshire SG13 7NS.
T 07958 563355
E anne@daisyroots.com
W daisyroots.com
O Friday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, March to
October. Or by appointment. ✉

Downderry Nursery

Specialises in growing lavender and rosemary for culinary, medicinal and decorative use. The lavender selection covers species that are hardy, half-hardy and tender to suit all garden situations and it's well worth a visit to the nursery to see the lines of lavender in various shades growing in the fields, not forgetting the joy of its heady scent. Check the website for details of summer tours of the nursery.

A Pillar Box Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge,
Kent TN11 9SW.
T 01732 810081
E info@downderry-nursery.co.uk
W downderry-nursery.co.uk
O Thursday-Sunday, 10am-5pm,
May to September (plus Bank
Holiday Mondays). ✉

South

Edulis

Edulis lies within a Victorian walled garden and sells an eclectic mix of rare plants, including some more unusual edibles. Most plants are hardy and relatively easy to grow – and sure to become a talking point. Stock can be viewed online but must be ordered by phone.

A The Walled Garden, Tidmarsh Lane,
Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 8HT.
T 01635 578113 / 07802 812781
E edulisnursery@gmail.com **W** edulis.co.uk
O Tuesday only, 11am-4pm. Or by appointment. See website for special events, shows attended and open days. ✉

Great Dixter Nursery

Once home to the renowned gardener Christopher Lloyd, the gardens of Great Dixter are world famous. The nursery is small and sells specialist plants raised in cold frames in the gardens. There is an extensive catalogue, but availability changes depending on the time of year. Don't miss the excellent plant fairs run in spring and autumn.

A Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH.
T 01797 254044
E nursery@greatdixter.co.uk **W** greatdixter.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, 10am-5pm, April to October. Monday-Friday, 9am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm, Saturday 9am-12.30pm, November to March. ✉

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants

Self-confessed plantaholics Rosy and Rob Hardy have gone from selling plants at local car boot sales to award-winning status at Chelsea. Their nursery stocks over 1,200 varieties of herbaceous perennials and they have become successful at breeding their own cultivars and introducing new plants to gardeners, such as the striking *Gaillardia* 'Apricot Honey'. Rosy runs lots of workshops and events at the nursery, as well as regularly attending shows.

A Priory Lane Nursery, Freefolk Priors,
Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7FA.
T 01256 896533 **E** info@hardysplants.co.uk
W hardysplants.co.uk
O Daily, 10am-5pm (Sunday 10am-4pm), March to September. Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm (closed weekends), October. Monday-Friday, 10am-3pm (closed weekends), November to February. Closed over Christmas and New Year. ✉

Hillier Garden Centres

With 12 garden centres across the south of England, Hillier is a great place to buy plants. Founded by Victorian entrepreneur Edwin Hillier in 1864, the business has been passed down through generations and has become an award-winning nursery with over 155-years experience and a reputation for selling quality plants. Visit the website for locations.

T 01794 368733 **W** hillier.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5.30pm. Sunday, 10.30am-4.30pm. ✉ Trade only.

Keepers Nursery

Suppliers of quality fruit trees, Keepers has worked hard to preserve old fruit cultivars and its trees have been used in restoration projects for the National Trust and English Heritage. Keepers supplies bare-root trees, including trained trees, that can be ordered at any time of year but are delivered mid-November to mid-March ready for planting. The nursery is not usually open to the public, so look out for its Autumn Apple Day to see and taste the fruit collection.

A Gallants Court, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0LE. **T** 01622 326465 **E** helpdesk@keepers-nursery.co.uk **W** keepers-nursery.co.uk
O See website and social media for open day. ✉

Lime Cross

Conifers are the order of the day at Lime Cross. The business was established in 1946 by Alan Tate, who experimented with propagating and grafting conifers and was an expert in his field. Now run by Alan's daughters Vicky and Helen, the nursery grows over 500 types of conifers, all propagated by hand. A range of shrubs and trees are also available and there are 28 acres of woodland, lakes and a pinetum to explore, along with organised activities including wild swimming, yoga, tai chi and monthly plant workshops.

A Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 4RS. **T** 01323 833229
E info@limecross.co.uk **W** limecross.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5pm. Sunday, 10am-5pm. ✉

Madrona Nursery

Most identifiable for its brick tower, which plays host to the nursery tea room, Madrona sells unusual plants, trees, shrubs and rare cultivars. Some are unique to the nursery. They have a selection of display beds on site and visitors are encouraged to browse. New catalogue published in April.

A Pluckley Road, Bethersden, Kent TN26 3EG.
T 01233 820100
E madrona@hotmail.co.uk
W madrona.co.uk
O Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm, March to October.

Majestic Trees

All of Majestic's 400-plus trees are grown in air pots rather than in the ground, so they can be moved and planted at any time of year. From young trees to specimens up to 150 years old, the nursery's range includes options for all seasons and styles of garden. This year the nursery is putting together the 'Power of Trees' feature at the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show in June.

A Chequers Meadow, Chequers Hill, Flamstead, nr St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 8ET.
T 01582 843881 **E** info@majestictrees.co.uk
W majestictrees.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 8.30am-5pm. Saturday 10am-4pm. Closed Bank Holidays and from Christmas to New Year. Delivery service.

Marchants Hardy Plants

Run by nurseryman Graham Gough and his wife, textile artist Lucy Goffin, Marchants propagates herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses from plants grown in the garden. The nursery is well stocked throughout the year and the garden can be visited for additional inspiration.

A 2 Marchants Cottages, Mill Lane,
Laughton, East Sussex BN8 6AJ.
T 01323 811737
W marchantshardyplants.co.uk
O Wednesday-Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm,
March to October.

Merriments

The majority of plants for sale at Merriments in East Sussex are grown on site. When it can't grow its own, the nursery looks to local and British suppliers to boost stock. It offers a complete range of plants but specialises in unusual perennials. There's also a four-acre RHS Partner Garden, shop and restaurant.

A Hawkhurst Road, Hurst Green, East
Sussex TN19 7RA.
T 01580 860666
E info@merriments.co.uk
W merriments.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.
Sunday, 10am-4.30pm.

The Palm Centre

Specialising in hardy exotics, The Palm Centre has two nurseries, one in Richmond, London and another in Portugal. Ferns, palms and bamboo all feature on the plant list, as well as houseplants and arid plants. Located in the old kitchen gardens of Ham House by the River Thames, the Richmond site covers four acres, and includes glasshouses and a display area.

A Ham Central Nursery, Ham Street,
Richmond, London TW10 7HA.
T 020 8255 6191
E website@palmcentre.co.uk
W palmcentre.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.
Sunday, 10am-4pm. ✉

Petersham Nursery

If you're a gardener in London, you will probably already know this stylish nursery with its shabby chic selection of seasonal plants, antiques, tools and equipment for both indoor and outside plant displays. It has a renowned café, a destination in it own right, and there's now also an outlet and restaurant in the heart of London in Covent Garden. Both venues run regular workshops and events.

A Church Lane, Off Petersham Road,
Richmond, London TW10 7AB.
T 020 8940 5230
E info.richmond@petershamnurseries.com
W petershamnurseries.com
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Sunday
and Bank Holidays, 11am-9pm. Café closed
Mondays but tea house open. ✉ Products only.

The Plant Centre at Hortus Loci

You'll find plenty of planting ideas at this well-stocked nursery. The trade side of the business supplies plants to some of the best-known designers and many of the show garden plant favourites find their way into the nursery for general sale. Plants are supplied at good, established sizes. New specialised tree section opening soon. Regular events hosted.

A Hound Green, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8LQ.
T 0118 932 6487
E enquiries@hlplantcentre.co.uk
W hlplantcentre.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5.30pm.
Sunday, 9.30am-4.30pm.

The Plant Specialist

Set up 2002 by head gardener Keith Pounder and passionate plantsman Sean Walter, The Plant Specialist in the Chilterns sells herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses. The team keep an eye on new plant forms from international plant breeders, and try them out in their trial beds. If deemed a success, the new plants are added to their already intriguing selection of stock.

A Whitefield Lane, Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire HP16 0BH.
T 01494 866650
E enquire@theplantspecialist.co.uk
W theplantspecialist.co.uk
O Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm.
Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays,
10am-4pm, April to October.

Tendercare Nurseries

A well-established, award-winning nursery, Tendercare is known for its extensive selection of high-quality, mature trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Supplied at larger than normal sizes, the plants give gardens an established look and feel in an instant. A favourite with garden designers when planting up show gardens.

A Southlands Road, Denham, Uxbridge,
London UB9 4HD.
T 01895 835544
E account@tendercare.co.uk
W tendercare.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.
Saturday, 10am-4pm. ✉

Wisley Plant Centre

The Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden RHS Garden Wisley has its own plant centre. Ninety per cent of the plants available are grown in British nurseries and the selection includes trees, roses, shrubs and alpines as well as herbaceous perennials and edible plants. All profits from the nursery are donated to the RHS to support its charitable work.

A RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
T 01483 211113
E wisleyplantcentre@rhs.org.uk
W rhs.org.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm
(5pm during winter). Sunday, 11am-5pm.

Beth Chatto Nurseries

The soft-orange glow of *Crocosmia* x *crocosmiiflora* 'Norwich Canary' brings a warmth to autumn plantings.

CLAIRE TAKACS

East

Barcham Trees

Europe's largest tree specialist with over 200,000 trees on offer covering a wide range of species. Such a wide selection means that you can choose exactly the right tree – style, shape, size. Make use of the extensive advice on hand to ensure that you buy the right tree for your garden situation.

A Eye Hill Drove, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XF.
T 01353 720950
E info@barchamtrees.co.uk
W barcham.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 9am-4.30pm. ✉

Beeches Nursery

This reliable nursery has an interesting selection of herbaceous perennials, ferns, grasses, roses, shrubs and trees. The site includes a four-acre wildlife meadow. All plants are grown in peat-free, organic compost from renewable resources.

A Crown Hill, Ashdon, Saffron Walden,
Essex CB10 2HB.
T 01799 584362
E sales@beechesnursery.co.uk
W beechesnursery.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5pm. Sunday and Bank Holidays, 9.30am-4.30pm. ✉

Beth Chatto Nurseries

Learn the virtue of 'right plant, right place' at this expert nursery, situated alongside the famous gardens and home of the late, great plantswoman, Beth Chatto. The plants here are a reflection of Beth's skill at choosing hard-working, garden-worthy plants, many of which are propagated from the garden. There is a particularly good selection of plants for damp, dry and shade areas. As well as running courses, the nursery hosts Plant Celebration Weekends in April and October.

A Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7DB.
T 01206 822007 **E** nursery@bethchatto.co.uk
W bethchatto.co.uk **O** Daily, 10am-5pm, March to October; 10am-4pm, November to February. Closed from Christmas to New Year. ✉

D'Arcy & Everest

Specialist in alpines and unusual perennials, D'Arcy & Everest propagates and grows all its own plants, with over 1,000 varieties on offer. In 2018 the nursery became an RHS Master Grower in recognition of 25 years of top-quality horticulture. Planting plans are available for containers or larger garden areas. The nursery is only open on set weekends, or for tours, workshops and other events.

A Pidley Sheep Lane, Somersham,
Cambridgeshire PE28 3FL.
T 01480 497672 **E** info@darcyeverest.co.uk
W darcyeverest.co.uk
O See website for dates of open weekends, workshops and tours. ✉

East

Darsham Nurseries

Darsham has become a bit of a destination since setting up first as a nursery, and then as a shop and café serving home-grown food. The plant focus is on perennials, particularly drought-tolerant and fragrant species along with cut-flower annuals, heritage vegetable seedlings, and culinary and medicinal herbs. Regular seasonal talks and demonstrations.

A Main Road, Darsham, Suffolk IP17 3PW.
T 01728 667022
E info@darshamnurseries.co.uk
W darshamnurseries.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Sunday and Bank Holidays, 10am-4pm.
✉ Garden tools and accessories.

Fernatix

Extensive choice of ferns and expert advice from fanatic fern growers Kerry Robinson and Steven Fletcher, who nurture most of their specimens from spores. Ferns are available for most growing conditions. This award-winning nursery is primarily mail order (though no online shopping). However, it is open by appointment and Kerry and Steven are regular visitors to garden shows from where larger specimens can be collected.

A Stoke Ash, Suffolk IP23 7EN.
E mail@fernatix.co.uk
W fernatix.co.uk
O By appointment. ✉

Harveys Garden Plants

A regular winner of gold medals at RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Harveys Garden Plants specialises in more unusual perennials with a particular emphasis on shade and woodland plants, such as hellebores, epimediums and anemones. It also runs a popular Celebration of Snowdrops event each January. The website helpfully categorises plants according to colour and season. See opposite for planting ideas.

A Great Green, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 3SJ. **T** 01359 233363
E mail@harveysgardenplants.co.uk
W harveysgardenplants.co.uk
O Nursery open by appointment only. Plants can be purchased via the café when open: Tuesday-Friday, 9.30am-4.30pm; Saturday, 10am-4.30pm. Closed Christmas to New Year. ✉

Peter Beales Roses

One of best rose specialist nurseries with an extensive range of old-fashioned, historic, rare and contemporary roses, as well as other herbaceous plants. The nursery is nestled within the two-acre display garden, so you are surrounded by inspiration. Plenty of advice is on offer, along with tours and an annual Rose Festival in June. New for 2019 is *Rosa* Liverpool Hope, a scented, apricot-yellow rose.

A London Road, Attleborough, Norwich, Norfolk NR17 1AY. **T** 01953 454707
E support@peterbealesroses.com
W classicroses.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm. Sunday and Bank Holidays, 10am-4pm. ✉

PLANTING IDEAS

Roger Harvey from Harveys Garden Plants

Nursery-owner Roger Harvey selects ten of his favourite woodland and shade plants.

I've always liked woodland plants, and they fit with the current interest in more natural planting. My selection here will bring spring colour and interest to shadier spots, from delicate snowdrops to the intriguing pagoda-shaped flowers of the trout lily. I've also included plants for difficult dry-shade areas.

TOP TIP

In general, woodland plants prefer a moisture-retentive, humus-rich soil. But there are plants suited to dry, shallow soils. Choose your plant accordingly.

TEN FAVOURITES: *Woodland and shade plants*

1 ***Epimedium fargesii* 'Pink Constellation'** Flowers appear in spring on long stems that look like clouds. The sepals are pink (the species pale pink to white) and the short, slightly spurred petals are deep purple. The young foliage has red veining and a red hue that matures to a pale green. 30cm.

2 ***Disporopsis pernyi*** Good evergreen groundcover for dry shade. Sometimes called evergreen Solomon's seal, this is a rhizomatous, clump-forming perennial, with scented white flowers. Late spring flowering. 30cm. USDA 6a-9b[†].

3 ***Polygonatum odoratum* 'Red Stem'** A stunning form of Solomon's seal, with red stems. The scented, green-tipped, white flowers, which appear in late spring, drop from graceful arching stems and the plant clumps readily. Tends not to be susceptible to sawfly. 55cm. RHS H7.

4 ***Speirantha gardenia* (formerly *S. convallarioides*)** An unusual evergreen Chinese species with strap-like leaves and scented, starry, white flowers in late spring. Grows well in dry soil enriched with organic matter. 30cm.

5 ***Synthyris missurica* subsp. *stellata*** This evergreen, rhizomatous perennial forms mounds of rounded, kidney-shaped, deep-green leaves. The prolific spikes of bell-shaped, dark violet-blue flowers are produced in March and contrast well with other early spring flowers. 20cm.

6 ***Mukdenia rossii*** This species originates from China and flowers in early spring. It produces slender stems crowded with masses of small white flowers before the leaves emerge. The large palmate leaves colour to red in the autumn. Easy to grow in rich loam. 50cm. RHS H5, USDA 4a-8b.

7 ***Galanthus elwesii* 'Rosemary Burnham'** A wonderful virescent snowdrop, found in British Columbia, and first exhibited in 1998. It flowers mid-season and is vigorous, unlike some newer virescent forms. The pale-green shading on the outers covers up to 75 per cent of these petals.

8 ***Beesia calthifolia*** Delightful clump-forming evergreen, with heart-shaped leaves suffused with pale-bronze staining. The tiny, white flowers are pea-shaped and alternate on a slender, stiff stem. Flowers and seedpods appear on the same stem continuously, May to November. 40cm.

9 ***Erythronium californicum*** A pure-white trout lily that is easy to grow in the shade of trees. It needs a humus-rich soil that does not dry out completely. The leaves emerge mottled with a bronze colouring. 30cm. RHS H5.

10 ***Pachysandra procumbens*** Rare evergreen species with broad, grey-green, toothed leaves and attractive buds in autumn and winter. Long spikes of white, spice-scented flowers with pink anthers in the lower leaf axils appear in spring. Grows well in dry shade. 30cm. USDA 5a-9b.

[†] Hardiness rating given where available.

JASON INGRAM

Woottens of Wenhaston

Woottens' selection of pelargoniums includes *P.* 'Lara Starshine' with large, pink-red flowers and scented foliage.

The Place for Plants

Established over 20 years ago by Rupert and Sara Eley (Rupert's family has gardened at adjoining East Bergholt Place for four generations), the plant centre offers a good selection of over 6,000 plants. Plenty of expert advice available from the team and you can also combine your nursery trip with a visit to the 20-acre garden/arboretum (March to September).

A East Bergholt Place, Suffolk CO7 6UP.
T 01206 299224 **E** sales@placeforplants.co.uk
W placeforplants.co.uk **O** Daily, 10am-5pm (dusk if earlier). Closed Easter Sunday and Christmas Bank Holidays. ✉

The Romantic Garden

Specialising in topiary, mature trees and shrubs for sale – or even for hire, should you have a particular event that needs impact. Plants are available in larger sizes too, giving instant effect. The nursery also stocks local craftsman Brian Turner's bespoke lead planters and fountains.

A The Street, Swannington, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5NW.
T 01603 261488
E enquiries@romantic-garden-nursery.co.uk
W romantic-garden-nursery.co.uk
O Wednesday, Friday, Saturday (plus Bank Holiday Mondays), 10am-5pm ✉

Todd's Botanics

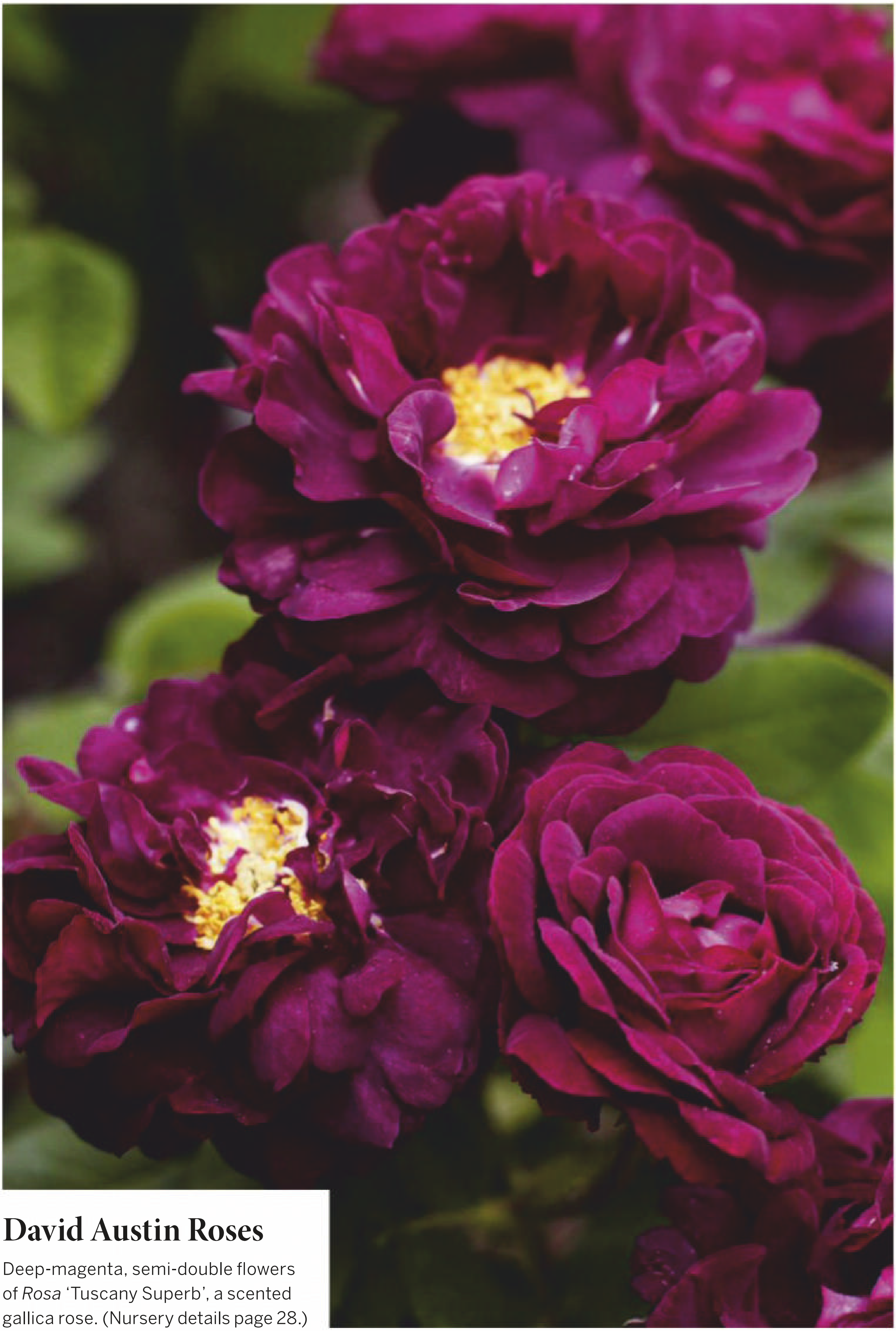
Primarily mail order, but included here because of its award-winning displays at garden shows, where you can meet with the team and choose plants from their selection. The focus is on drought-tolerant and structural plants, including olive trees, tree ferns and hedging.

A West Street, Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex CO6 1NT.
T 01376 561212 **W** toddsbotanics.co.uk
O Nursery not open to public, but worth looking out for at garden shows. ✉

Woottens of Wenhaston

Well-established nursery with over 500 varieties of carefully grown and selected plants including special collections of auriculas, pelargoniums, irises and hemerocallis. Each of these plant groups has its own open day when visitors can view the plants at their peak, gain expert advice and buy best plants. The Iris Fields open in May, Pelargonium Day is 22 June and the Hemerocallis Fields open in July. New to the nursery this year – succulents.

A The Iris Field, Hall Road, Wenhaston, Suffolk IP19 9HF.
T 01502 478258 / 07802 507693
E info@woottensplants.co.uk
W woottensplants.com
O Saturday between March and October plus first weekend of each month, 10am-4pm. Plant orders can be collected by appointment. ✉



David Austin Roses

Deep-magenta, semi-double flowers of *Rosa* ‘Tuscany Superb’, a scented gallica rose. (Nursery details page 28.)

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Midlands

Ashwood Nurseries

Award-winning nursery with a wealth of top-quality plant choices and plenty of expert advice on hand, headed up by the notable John Massey and Kevin Belcher. Hellebores and hepaticas are a speciality, with popular open days for these plants. John's garden is also open on occasion. Check website for details.

A Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 0AE. **T** 01384 401996
E mailorder@ashwoodnurseries.com
W ashwoodnurseries.com
O Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5.30pm, Sunday, 9am-5.30pm, 11 March-28 October; Monday-Saturday, 8.30am-5pm, Sunday, 9am-5pm, 28 October to 10 March (dates refer to 2019). Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. ✉

Avondale Nursery

Nursery and display garden with rare and unusual plants, including good collections of *Geum*, *Geranium*, *Crocosmia*, *Agapanthus*, *Eryngium* and *Helenium* as well as National Collections of *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, *Anemone nemorosa* and *Sanguisorba*, ensuring there is lots to see throughout the seasons. Library Garden open March-September (free except on National Garden Scheme open days).

A Mill Hill, Baginton, Coventry CV8 3AG.
T 024 7667 3662
E enquiries@avondalenursery.co.uk
W avondalenursery.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 10am-12.30pm and 2-5pm, Sunday, 10.30am-4.30pm, March to September. Or by appointment.

Barnsdale

Wide selection of quality plants, including perennials, shrubs and climbers, with most having been propagated from the adjoining garden. Home to the late Geoff Hamilton, highly regarded BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter and organic gardening pioneer, Barnsdale is now run by Geoff's son, Nick. The garden, with its 38 individual garden settings, is well worth including in your visit.

A The Avenue, Exton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8AH.
T 01572 813200 **E** info@barnsdalegardens.co.uk
W barnsdalegardens.co.uk
O Daily, 9am-5pm, March to May; 9am-7pm, June to August; 9am-5pm, September to October; 10am-4pm, November to February. Closed 24-25 December. ✉ Online shop.

Bluebell Arboretum and Nursery

As one of the leading suppliers of rare woody plants in the UK, Bluebell Nursery stocks an exciting range of trees, shrubs and climbers. The nursery is set within a nine-acre woodland garden, providing ample inspiration. Book to join one of the guided walks.

A Annwell Lane, Smisby, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2TA. **T** 01530 413700
E sales@bluebellnursery.com
W bluebellnursery.com
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10.30am-4.30pm, March to October; Monday-Saturday, 9am-4pm (closed Sunday), November to February. Closed 24 December – 2 January, and Easter Sunday. ✉

Burford Garden Company

A garden centre rather than a specialist plant nursery, but its offering is impressive, ranging from fire pits and bespoke artisan items to a well-chosen selection of houseplants, garden plants, topiary trees and shrubs.

A Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4PA.
T 01993 823117
E info@burford.co.uk **W** burford.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Sunday, 11am-5pm. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Easter Sunday. ✉ Online shop.

David Austin Roses

Synonymous with English roses with a focus on scent, David Austin's roses are justly famous. Founder David Austin sadly passed away in 2018, but in his lifetime he released 200 new roses. Large display garden at the nursery plus award-winning garden show displays are a great way to see the range.

A Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton WV7 3HB. **T** 01902 376300
E help@davidaustinroses.co.uk
W davidaustinroses.co.uk **O** Daily, 9am-5pm. ✉

Fibrex Nurseries

A regular exhibitor at major gardening shows, Fibrex specialises in pelargoniums, ivies (it holds National Collections for both of these), ferns, begonias, hardy geraniums and, its latest addition, tropical hibiscus. The nursery is hosting a Gardeners' Gathering on 22 June 2019, including the Annual National Pelargonium Show, joined by a selection of visiting specialist societies and nurseries. See opposite for planting ideas.

A Honeybourne Road, Pebworth, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8XP.
T 01789 720788
E sales@fibrex.co.uk **W** fibrex.co.uk
O Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, March to August (plus Saturday-Sunday, 10.30am-4pm, April to June); Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm, September to February. ✉

Pottertons

Although primarily a mail-order nursery, Pottertons does have a five-acre display garden showing a range of alpine species, alongside an extensive sales area open to the public on limited days. There are also open weekends to look out for. The selection is focused around plants for rockeries, raised beds, crevice gardens, troughs and woodland areas.

A Moortown Road, Nettleton, Caistor, Lincolnshire LN7 6HX. **T** 01472 851714
E sales@pottertons.co.uk
W pottertons.co.uk
O Tuesday-Friday, 10am-3pm, March to September, and by prior arrangement. ✉

PLANTING IDEAS

Heather Godard-Key from Fibrex

Heather picks ten failsafe pelargoniums for long-lasting displays over the summer.

This is a selection of tender pelargoniums that we use in planters around the nursery and in our displays around the country on the show circuit, simply because they are all so good. They've been tried and tested by us and many others, and are favourites with our customers. They look beautiful, smell great and are firm favourites with the local bees. All need to come indoors over winter.

TOP TIP

Although considered drought-tolerant, pelargoniums will look much better if you combine a good water with a high-potash feed at least once a week when they are in flower.

TEN FAVOURITES: *Long-lasting pelargoniums*

1 *Pelargonium* 'Attar of Roses' A scented-leaf cultivar with rose-scented, pale-green leaves and charming, small, pale-pink flowers. Excellent as a gap filler in a border, for mixed planters or simply on its own. With edible flowers, it is also excellent for flavouring. 30cm. AGM*. RHS H1C†.

2 *P. tomentosum* A scented-leaf cultivar with enormous, velvety, peppermint-scented leaves and tiny, white flowers held on long, delicate stems. An excellent plant for large tubs in a semi-shaded position. 30cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

3 *P.* 'Pink Capricorn' Easily the best of all the scented cultivars for flower power. An abundance of candy-pink flowers produced from spring to late autumn, with rose-lemon scented leaves. Excellent for tubs by itself or mixed with other cultivars. 60cm. RHS H1C.

4 *P.* 'Ashby' This is a real stunner: deep, magenta-pink flowers, feathered black. Semi-prostrate habit with coarse, bluntly lobed leaves. A very nice specimen plant but also grows well in mixed plantings. 40cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

5 *P.* 'Australian Mystery' Of all the display plants we use at the summer shows, this has to be one of the most outstanding. This purple-and-white beauty is a tall cultivar and as with most decorative pelargoniums is wonderful as a standalone plant or in mixed borders. 60cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

6 *P.* 'Mystery' Lovely, full and bushy habit with flowers of deep wine-red, blotched black. Lush. 1m. AGM. RHS H1C.

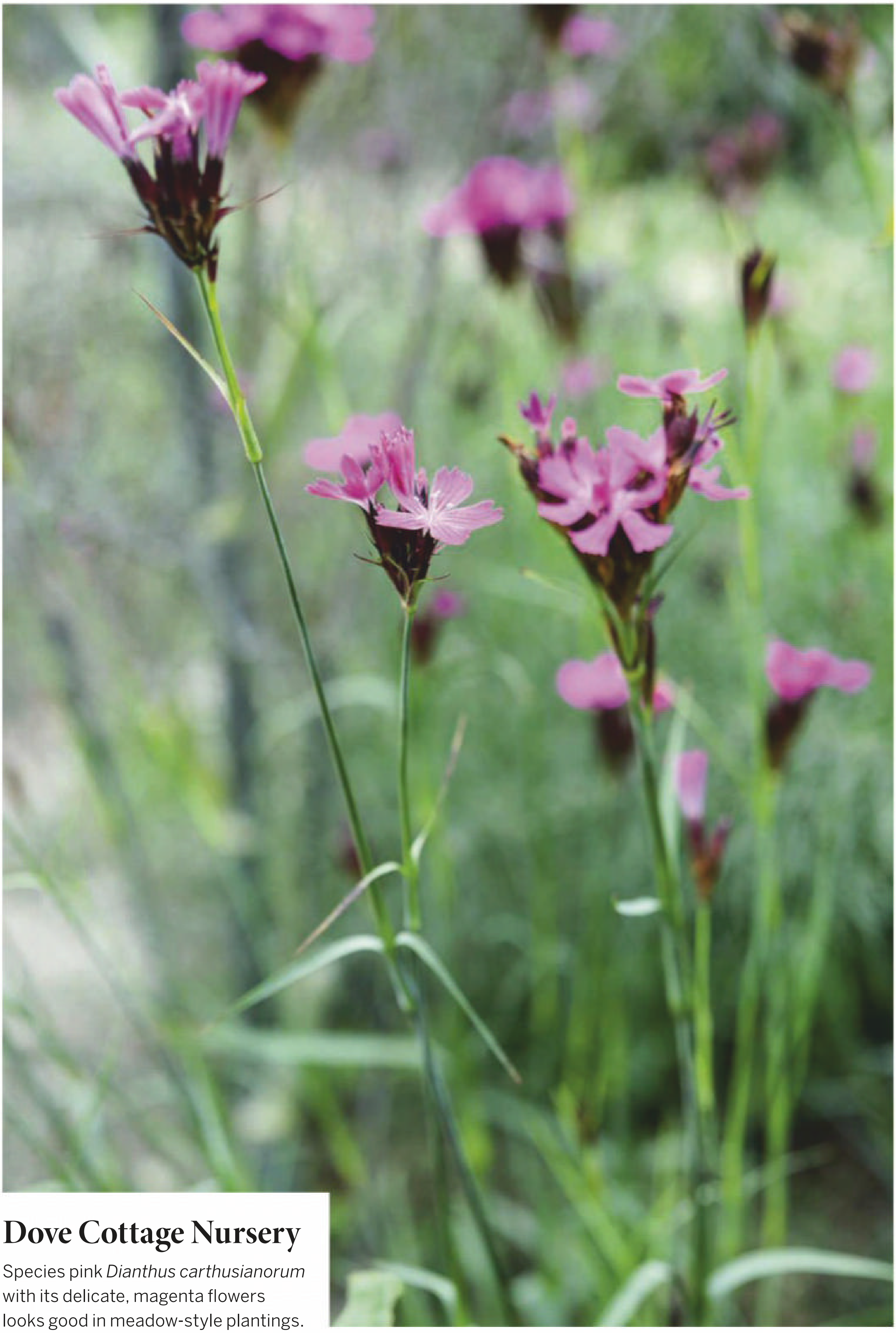
7 *P.* 'Imperial Butterfly' Naturally bushy Angel pelargonium with abundant, pure-white flowers that have dark-purple feathering on the upper petals. We nearly always use it in our show displays. 40cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

8 *P.* 'Lord Bute' A one-off. Purple-black with a red edge on all petals, which gives it a very dramatic look. Upright habit. Does its very best outside, all summer, and is always the last to finish flowering. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H1C.

9 *P.* 'Surcouf' This cultivar mixes into any colour scheme, with long trails of beautiful, deep cerise-pink, single flowers. It's an old cultivar, but a true classic and has always been the centrepiece for our Chelsea displays. 25cm. RHS H1C.

10 *P.* 'Renate Parsley' Raised by Hazel Key, founder of Fibrex Nurseries and the National Collection, and named after a family friend. This has masses of flowers in wine red with a black dot at the centre on the upper petals and lower petals of pale pink. The leaves are grey-green, making a great contrast with its prostrate, almost trailing, habit. 9cm. AGM. RHS H1C.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness rating given where available.



Dove Cottage Nursery

Species pink *Dianthus carthusianorum* with its delicate, magenta flowers looks good in meadow-style plantings.

JASON INGRAM

North

Abi and Tom's Plants

Owners Abi and Tom set up the nursery in 2011 to focus on a tried-and-tested range of hardy herbaceous perennials, all of which they propagate and grow themselves. These are plants they love, are easy to grow and that can withstand the challenges of the Cumbrian climate. Join their annual garden party on 15 September 2019 for tours, demonstrations and guest exhibits.

A Halecat, Witherslack, Cumbria LA11 6RT.
T 015395 52946
E info@halecatplants.co.uk
W abiandtom.co.uk
O Daily, 10am-5pm, 25 February to 30 September. Opening times in October vary.

Bide-a-Wee Cottage Gardens & Nursery

Over 500 perennials, grasses, shrubs and ferns on offer, all grown at the gardens, including the National Collection of *Centaurea* with over 90 species and cultivars.

A Stanton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 8PR.
T 01677 772004
E info@bideawee.co.uk
W bideawee.co.uk
O Wednesday and Saturday, 1.30-5pm, 20 April to 14 September.
✉ Available September to March.

Cath's Garden Plants

Award-winning nursery whose accolades include Harrogate Spring Flower Show 2017 Best in Show and a bronze award for environmental achievements. All perennials are home-grown without heat to give vigorous, healthy plants. *Iris sibirica* and peonies a speciality.

A The Walled Garden, Heaves Hotel, Heaves, nr Levens, Cumbria LA8 8EF.
T 01539 561126
E cathsgardenplants61126@gmail.com
W cathsgardenplants.co.uk
O Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-4.30pm. Winter opening times vary; please check website. Closed mid-December to 1 February. ✉

Dove Cottage Nursery

Attractive nursery situated on a terraced hillside with helpful display beds alongside selling areas. Most of the plants here are tried-and-tested, easy-to-grow perennials and grasses. Look out for *Eryngium* 'Blue Waves', recently developed by the nursery and runner-up Plant of the Year 2018. There is an adjoining garden with prairie-style, naturalistic planting.

A Shibden Hall Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 9XA. **T** 01422 203553
E info@dovecottagenursery.co.uk
W dovecottagenursery.co.uk
O Thursday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, April to September. Check website for garden openings.

North

Halls of Heddon

This nursery has an extensive range of plant and garden sundries but it is particularly known for its dahlia and chrysanthemum collections. Lots of choice in all classes, both garden varieties and show types for the dedicated plantsperson. Visit the fields in late summer for inspiration and order your favourites. Plants sold as tubers or rooted cuttings, giving you the option as to how best to grow your display.

A West Heddon Nursery Centre, Heddon on the Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0JS.
T 01661 852445 **E** enquiry@hallsofheddon.co.uk
W hallsofheddon.com
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.
Sunday, 10am-5pm. ✉

Hare Spring Cottage Plants

Award-winning nursery specialising in *Camassia* (holder of the National Collection), *Sidalcea* (which resemble a small hollyhock), *Uvularia* (spring-flowering woodland plants) and other hardy perennials.

A Church Orchard, Alne, York YO61 1RX.
T 07792 376805
E stella@harespringcottageplants.co.uk
W harespringcottageplants.co.uk
O See website for nursery open days.
Also a frequent show attendee. ✉ Order online for shipping or collection at shows.

Harperley Hall Farm Nurseries

Specialists in alpines and woodland or shade-loving plants, with a lovely selection of garden favourites and more rare and unusual choices. Primulas are another speciality. Frequent attendee at shows and specialist events throughout the year.

A Harperley, Stanley, Durham DH9 9UB.
T 01207 233318
E enquiries@harperleyhallfarmnurseries.co.uk
W harperleyhallfarmnurseries.co.uk
O Daily, 10am-4.30pm. ✉

Hoyland Plant Centre

A regular show-goer and frequent award-winner, this family nursery specialises in *Tulbaghia*, *Clivia*, *Nerine* and *Agapanthus*, for which it has developed many new cultivars and holds the National Collection. Orders can be collected at shows.

A 54 Greenside Lane, Hoyland, South Yorkshire S74 9PZ.
T 01226 744466
E plantshop@somethingforthegarden.co.uk
W somethingforthegarden.co.uk
O By appointment only. Or see them at local and national shows. ✉

PLANTING IDEAS

Dave Hall from Halls of Heddon

Dave chooses some of the best hardy chrysanthemums for an abundance of autumn colour.

Chrysanthemums have been part of my life since childhood, and I have memories of greenhouses full of late-flowering varieties in the early 1960s. We used to concentrate on cut-flower and exhibition cultivars, but now there is a growing interest in reliable cultivars for general garden displays. These hardy types can be left in the garden from year to year.

TOP TIP

Hardy chrysanths can grow quite bushy so need plenty of space but can be strong enough to support themselves. Ensure the soil is not too heavy and is relatively free-draining.

TEN FAVOURITES: *Hardy chrysanthemums*

1 ***Chrysanthemum* 'Chatsworth'** This lovely orange-bronze, double-flowered spray chrysanthemum is the perfect autumnal colour. The multi-flowered stems are excellent for cutting with the plants themselves being relatively compact and sturdy. Flowers mid-August. 1m.

2 ***C.* 'Ruby Mound'** A rich, ruby-red, double-flowered cultivar whose multiple, small flowers glisten when covered with dew on a sunny autumn morning. Reliably hardy, making a large clump over a few years. Late September flowering. 1m. AGM*. RHS H3†.

3 ***C.* 'Aunt Millicent'** This silvery-pink, single-flowered cultivar, which produces masses of flowers, simply glistens, cheering up even a cold November morning. Remains relatively unscathed, even after light frosts. Comes into its own quite late in the season for us, flowering October into November. 90cm. AGM. RHS H4.

4 ***C.* 'Nell Gwynn'** Attractive light pink with an open centre and a white ring surrounding the central disc. A compact grower, making it useful for the front of the border. Bushy, plants flower September to October. 45cm. RHS H5.

5 ***C.* 'Ruby Raynor'** Despite its name, this compact cultivar has rich-gold double flowers with bronze tints from September to October. 60cm. AGM. RHS H4.

6 ***C.* 'Percy Salter'** Taller than most, with larger multiple flowers held atop each stem. The attractive pale-biscuit to light salmon-coloured flowers light up September days. A very weatherproof cultivar, which has good stems for cutting growing. 1m.

7 ***C.* 'Daphne Davis'** A single-flowered, spray cultivar. The ivory-white to pale-peach flowers, which appear in August to September, age to an attractive dusky pink. 1m. RHS H3.

8 ***C.* 'White Gem'** This cultivar has unusual, spoon-shaped petals that flatten out at the ends. An open-centred cultivar that flowers September to October on compact plants. 50cm.

9 ***C.* 'Grandchild'** Produces masses of small, double, pink flowers that appear from August through to September and beyond. Compact habit. 45cm. AGM. RHS H4.

10 ***C.* 'Perry's Peach'** A strong-growing plant with a rounded bushy habit and dense foliage that is a good backdrop to the numerous, open-centred peach flowers that appear late September to October. 60cm. AGM. RHS H4.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

†Hardiness rating given where available.

North

Larch Cottage Nurseries

A well-stocked nursery with interesting and unusual plants in an intriguing garden setting, all developed by owner and landscape designer Peter Stott. Planting displays include shrubs, acers, roses, dwarf conifers and perennials. There is an art gallery on site with regular exhibitions, and workshops run throughout the year.

A Melkinthorpe, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2DR.
T 01931 712404 **E** plants@larchcottage.co.uk
W larchcottage.co.uk
O Daily, 9am-5pm, March to October; 9am-4.30pm, November to February. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. ✉

RV Roger

With 100 years of growing experience, RV Roger is a traditional nursery with 16,000 plants, bulbs and seeds on offer, along with advice and inspiration. A good supplier for roses, hedging, and fruit and vegetable growers. The nursery also runs events; look out for the Ryedale Rose Festival in early July and Apple Weekend in early October.

A The Nurseries, Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire YO18 7JW. **T** 01751 472226
E sales@rvroger.co.uk
W rvroger.co.uk
O Monday-Saturday, 8am-5pm. Sunday, 10am-4pm. Bank Holidays, 10.30am-5pm. ✉

Slack Top Nurseries

Described as 'an alpine sweet shop', this specialist nursery has a naturalistic garden showing a range of alpines in containers, troughs and scree beds. There is also a planted wall for more inspiration. These are tough plants, raised on site and grown at altitude, so tried and tested for most garden situations. The range changes every year.

A 22A Slack Top, nr Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7HA.
T 01422 845348 / 07392 856395
E enquiries@slacktopnurseries.co.uk
W slacktopnurseries.co.uk **O** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10am-5pm, March to end of August. ✉

Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens & Nursery

This nursery offers unusual perennials, including a good range of hardy geraniums. Most plants can be seen growing in the display beds and are generally available in larger sizes (two or three-litre pots). Plant catalogue available for orders by collection only. Regular workshops and events, including a Wildlife Day in June. Check website for details.

A Stewart Lane, Stillingfleet, York YO19 6HP.
T 01904 728506
E info@stillingfleetlodgenurseries.co.uk
W stillingfleetlodgenurseries.co.uk
O Wednesdays, Fridays, and first and third weekends each month, 1-5pm. April to September. Check website for details. Also open by arrangement.

JASON INGRAM

Slack Top Nurseries

Dierama igneum, with pretty, salmon-pink flowers on arching stems, is new to Slack Top Nurseries for 2019.

Treberfydd Walled Garden

Attractive displays of the stock help with plant selection at this nursery in Wales. (Nursery details page 39).

JASON INGRAM

Wales and West

Claire Austin Hardy Plants

Daughter of the late, eminent rosarian David Austin Senior, Claire Austin is an equally passionate plantsperson. Together with her husband she holds the National Collections of bearded iris and hybrid herbaceous peonies. The nursery, which specialises in tried-and-tested perennials, sells both iris and peonies as bare-root plants. The Plant Shop is located in The Sarn, a local pub – opening times below.

A White Hopton Farm, Wern Lane, Sarn,
Newtown, Powys SY16 4EN. **T** 01686 670342
E enquiries@claireaustin-hardyplants.co.uk
W claireaustin-hardyplants.co.uk
O The Plant Shop is open at The Sarn, Sarn,
Newtown, Powys SY16 4EJ, Monday-Saturday,
10am-5pm, Sunday, 10am-4pm. ✉

Cotswold Garden Flowers

Plantsman and garden writer Bob Brown, who owns this nursery, grows unusual perennials, from well-performing, old-fashioned plants to newly introduced specimens. He aims to stock plants celebrated for colour, form and the vigour of their performance.

A Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham,
Worcestershire WR11 7EZ.
T 01386 833849
E info@cgf.net
W cgf.net
O Monday-Friday, 9am-5.30pm, weekends
10am-5.30pm, March to September; Monday-
Friday only, 9am-4.30pm, October to February.
Please check website for winter opening. ✉

Crûg Farm Plants

Keen plant hunters Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones have an intriguing collection of plants on offer, many of which are new and have not been seen in cultivation before. Visit the nursery to see its collection of shade-loving plants growing in the woodland and take a stroll through the walled garden to see more hand-picked collections.

A Griffith's Crossing, Caernarfon,
Gwynedd LL55 1TU.
T 01248 670232
E mailorder@crug-farm.co.uk
W crug-farm.co.uk
O Thursday-Saturday, 9.30am-4.30pm,
April to September. ✉

Hall Farm Nursery

Christine and Nic Ffoulkes Jones's love of plants is evident at this small, yet award-winning nursery run on organic principles. Display beds provide inspiration for the selection of hardy perennials. Regular attendee at local and national plant fairs. They also run workshops.

A Vicarage Lane, Kinnerley, nr Oswestrey,
Shropshire SY10 8DH.
T 01691 682135
E info@hallfarmnursery.co.uk
W hallfarmnursery.co.uk
O Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm,
1 March to 14 September. Also by appointment.

Wales and West

Hillview Hardy Plants

Hardy plants and cottage garden perennials, including the National Collections of acanthus and albucas, and an extensive collection of auriculas. Don't miss the special auricula days in April. The nursery team can even make you an auricula theatre to order for displaying your plants. Regular attendee at plant fairs and garden shows.

A Worfield, nr Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV15 5NT.
T 01746 716454
E hillview@onetel.net
W hillviewhardyplants.com
O Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, 1 March to 15 October. Or by appointment. ✉

Old Court Nurseries (The Picton Garden)

Having grown Michaelmas daisies since 1906, it's probably fair for Old Court Nurseries to describe itself as the birthplace of modern asters. The Picton Garden, part of the nursery, is home to the National Collection of autumn-flowering asters, with nearly 400 different asters on display. The range of plants available from the nursery extends to other autumn-flowering perennials and alpines. Courses run throughout the year.

A Walwyn Road, Colwall, Malvern,
Worcestershire WR13 6QE. **T** 01684 540416
E oldcourtnurseries@btinternet.com
W autumnasters.co.uk
O Opening times vary throughout the year; check website for details. ✉

Pan-Global Plants

Nursery owner Nick Macer chooses to grow desirable but rare plants capable of flourishing in a British climate. A plant hunter at heart, Nick likes to observe plants in their wild state to better understand their characteristics and optimum growing conditions. The Pan-Global catalogue features most garden plants, from exotics and bamboo to climbers and shrubs.

A The Walled Garden, Frampton Court,
Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire GL2 7EX.
T 01452 741641 **E** info@panglobalplants.com
W panglobalplants.com
O Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm, February to October. Closed second Sunday in September. ✉

Pheasant Acre Plants

An award-winning nursery that has won many a gold medal for its eye-catching displays at top garden shows, which are the best places to see this otherwise mail-order selection. Pheasant Acre Plants focuses on growing gladioli and dahlias, as both tubers and pot-grown plants, and also supplies other autumn bulbs, such as fritillaries and tulips.

A 3 Pheasant Walk, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend CF31 4DU.
T 01656 664086
E sales@pheasantacreplants.co.uk
W pheasantacreplants.co.uk
O See the nursery's displays, and make and collect orders, at RHS and local flower shows. ✉

Special Perennials

All the plants offered by Martin and Janet Blow are grown in their garden, so they know their worth. Their plant choice focuses on flowers to attract wildlife, including a good choice of *Helenium*, *Phlox*, *Centaurea*, *Geum*, *Salvia* and more. Plants are for sale by mail order or at plant fairs, where orders can be collected. The private garden is open occasionally (see website for details).

A Yew Tree House, Hall Lane, Hankelow,
Crewe, Cheshire CW3 0JB.
T 07716 990695 (9am-5pm only)
E plants@specialperennials.com
W specialperennials.com
O See website for details. ✉

Stone House Cottage Garden & Nursery

Nurserywoman Louisa Arbuthnott grows wall shrubs, climbers and herbaceous plants, all of which can be seen growing in her walled garden next to the nursery. Because she grows all the stock herself, some plants are limited in number.

A Church Lane, nr Kidderminster,
Worcestershire DY10 4BG.
T 07817 921146
E louisa@shcn.co.uk
W shcn.co.uk
O Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm,
April to late August.

Treberfydd Walled Garden

Nurserywoman Alison Sparshatt has transformed a derelict walled garden in the Brecon Beacons into a welcoming nursery selling hardy plants that she has grown and propagated herself. The emphasis is on structural, unusual, edible, herbal and fragrant plants.

A Walled Garden Treberfydd, Llangasty,
Brecon, Powys LD3 7PX.
T 01874 730169
E alison@walledgardentreberfydd.com
W walledgardentreberfydd.com
O Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, Sunday and Monday, 11am-4pm, April to September; Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, October to March. Closed 21 December to 31 January.

Wildegoose Nursery

Set within a two-acre walled garden, with enviable, restored, Georgian curvilinear glasshouses, this nursery is home to the Bouts Violas collection. Alongside these, owners Laura and Jack Willgoss also love loose, naturalistic plantings of perennials and grasses, as seen in the New Perennial Movement. Regular workshops and talks.

A The Walled Garden, Lower Millichope,
Munslow, Shropshire SY7 9HE.
T 01584 841890 **E** office@wildegoosenursery.co.uk
W wildegoosenursery.co.uk
O Friday-Sunday, 10am-4.30pm, 29 March to 13 October. Also by appointment.
✉ May to late June only.

Scotland

Abriachan Garden Nursery

A very tempting nursery located on the banks of Loch Ness, with stunning views and a woodland garden to inspire. The plant range includes perennials, alpines and one of the best collections of auriculas in the country.

A Loch Ness-side, Inverness IV3 8LA.
T 01463 861232
E info@lochnessgarden.com
W lochnessgarden.com
O Daily, 9am-7pm, February to November. ✉

Binny Plants

There are plenty of plant choices in this well-regarded nursery, based in an old walled kitchen garden near Edinburgh. All plants are grown in peat-free compost. Owner Billy Carruthers will happily give advice on his nursery selection. His real passion, though, is peonies – there are about 300 to choose from at the nursery, making for a lingering visit.

A Binny Estate, Ecclemachan Road, Uphall, West Lothian EH52 6NL.
T 01506 858931 **E** contact@binnyplants.com
W binnyplants.com
O Daily, 10am-5pm. Closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year. ✉

Cally Gardens

The nursery is set within a walled garden, with the garden's growing grounds surrounding the nursery's trial and stock bed. Originally established by passionate plantsman and modern-day planthunter, the late Michael Wikenden, Cally earned a reputation for a wide-ranging and interesting selection of perennials. Now plantsman and ecologist Kevin Hughes has taken on this heritage, stocking plants sourced from worldwide botanic gardens, as well as bringing his own collection of magnolias.

A Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway DG7 2DJ. **T** 01557 815228
E info@callygardens.co.uk **W** callygardens.co.uk
O Thursday-Friday, 2-5pm, Saturday-Sunday, 10am-5pm, March to October. Other times by appointment.

Edrom

Specialities among Edrom's rare and unusual plants include epimediums, gentians, hepaticas, primulas and more. There are some interesting collections on offer, too – chosen by the nursery team and giving a good saving on buying individual plants. Edrom is no longer open as a retail nursery but plants can be purchased and collected at shows, or by special arrangement from the nursery.

A Coldingham, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5TZ. **T** 01890 771386
E mail@edrom-nurseries.co.uk
W edrom-nurseries.co.uk
O At shows or by special arrangement. ✉

Elizabeth MacGregor Nursery

Each autumn this award-winning nursery produces a catalogue of the plants propagated for spring availability. It was here that the recent must-have *Anemone* Wild Swan (= 'Macane001'), with its elegant white flowers backed by a purple stripe, was bred from a chance seedling spotted by Elizabeth.

A Ellenbank, Tongland Road, Kirkcudbright,
Dumfries and Galloway DG6 4UU.
T 01557 330620 / 07941 546228
E alasdair.macgregor@btinternet.com
W elizabethmacgregornursery.co.uk
O Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, from last weekend in April until first weekend October. ✉

Glendoick Garden Centre

The focus here is on plants for Scottish gardens. Owner Kenneth Cox is an expert in rhododendrons and woodland plants and a visit to the adjoining renowned gardens will provide plenty of inspiration (open 10am-4pm, 1 April and 31 May, £5). The nursery also produces a handy *100 Best Ornamental Plants for Scotland* booklet, listing Kenneth's choice of reliable plants. This year is Glendoick's 100th anniversary.

A Glencarse, Perth PH2 7NS.
T 01738 860260
E gardencentre@glendoick.com
W glendoick.com
O Monday-Saturday, 9am-5.30pm (9am-5pm in winter). Sunday, 10am-5pm. ✉ Minimum spend applies; see website for details.

Kevock Garden Plants

Award-winning alpine, bog and woodland specialists, as well as offering a good selection of spring- and summer-flowering bulbs. Not open to the public, but plants are available to buy at flower shows. Customers can also browse the printed catalogue, or order online. Nursery co-owners Stella and David Rankin have also created a hillside garden that can be visited by appointment.

A Kevock Road, Lasswade,
Midlothian EH18 1HX.
T 0131 454 0660
E info@kevockgarden.co.uk
W kevockgarden.co.uk
O At shows. Garden by appointment. ✉

Macplants

A large selection of home-grown alpines, ferns, ornamental grasses and perennials including a tempting choice of *Meconopsis* cultivars, well suited to Scottish gardens.

A Berrybank Nursery, 5 Boggs Holdings,
Pencaitland, East Lothian EH34 5BA.
T 01875 341179
E sales@macplants.co.uk
W macplants.co.uk
O Daily, 10.30am-5pm, mid-March to 30 September. Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm, October. Monday-Friday by appointment only November to mid-March. ✉

Ballyrobert Gardens

The delicate, white flowers of *Anemone rivularis* are tinged with violet-blue on the reverse and anthers. Suits damper areas.

CLAIRE TAKACS

Ireland and N. Ireland

Altamont Plants

Part of the Altamont Gardens estate, but run privately by nurseryman Robert Miller, Altamont Plants has grown a reputation for its extensive range of herbaceous perennials and old shrub roses. If you're visiting the adjoining gardens, don't miss the Corona North Commemorative Border, designed using plants grown at the nursery. Robert also hosts a great selection of events.

A Ballon, Co. Carlow, ROI.
T +353 (0)87 9822135
E sales@altamontplants.com
W altamontplants.com (under construction)
O Daily, from 9am. Closing times vary seasonally.

Ballyrobert Gardens

A family-run nursery on the east coast of Northern Ireland with a strong philosophy of right plant, right place. The plants are low-maintenance and include rarer, more sterile cultivars that are slow-growing and won't propagate by seed.

A 154 Ballyrobert Road, Ballyclare,
Co. Antrim BT39 9RT, Northern Ireland.
T 028 9344 0101
E information@ballyrobertgardens.com
W ballyrobertgardens.com
O Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm (Sunday,
by appointment only), March to September. ✉

Camolin Potting Shed

All the plants at Camolin Potting Shed are grown outside to harden up in the Irish climate. This method results in sturdy specimens that will easily settle when planted out. The nursery specialises in unusual herbaceous perennials and clematis, and prides itself on introducing new plants to Ireland.

A Bolinaspick, Camolin, Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford Y21 TD93, ROI.
T +353 (0)53 938 3629 / (0)86 6045715
E susan@camolinpottingshed.com
W camolinpottingshed.com
O Thursday-Friday, 11am-5pm, 28 March to
6 September. Other times by arrangement. ✉

Timpany Nurseries

The garden at Timpany has seen continuous development since the 1970s, when the grounds comprised three small fields. Highlights include herbaceous borders, an arboretum, and a cottage garden filled with rare and unusual plants. The nursery, developed from plants grown in the garden, has an extensive collection of *Primula auricula*.

A 77 Magheratimpany Road, Ballynahinch,
Co. Down BT24 8PA, Northern Ireland.
T 028 975 62812 **E** s.tindall@btconnect.com
W timpanynurseries.com
O Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5.30pm.
Opening hours limited during
winter months. ✉

Mail Order

Bressingham Gardens

Home to the gardening dynasty that is the Bloom family – founded by Alan Bloom and succeeded by Adrian, now joined by son-in-law Jaime Blake – Bressingham Gardens in Norfolk provides ample inspiration throughout the seasons. The online, mail-order nursery can supply you with the plants you've seen in the gardens, and offers advice on plant selection from its tried-and-tested range.

T 01379 688282
(Monday-Friday, 8.30am-4.30pm)
E info@bressinghamgardens.com
W thebressinghamgardens.com/shop

Crocus

An established online nursery, Crocus offers a wide range of garden-worthy plants with good online descriptions that are useful in helping you make the best selections. It also sells garden sundries, such as cloches and garden supports. Watch out for the Chelsea ranges, offering plants featured in those show gardens put together by Crocus. The nursery now has an association with Dorney Court in Buckinghamshire, where it sells plants and runs courses.

T 01344 578111 (daily, 7am-10pm)
W crocus.co.uk

Landlife Wildflowers

Reliable selections of individual, native-British wildflower species or specific mixes available as seeds, plants or bulbs, all sustainably grown, harvested and packed by hand. Each mix is tested for its suitability to a wide range of locations from gardens to larger landscaping projects. Available in small to large quantities.

T 01205 281902
E info@wildflower.co.uk
W wildflower.co.uk

Thorncroft Clematis

Multi-award-winning UK clematis specialist, whose range includes old favourites, new introductions, rarities, evergreen and herbaceous clematis. Each selection is based on colour, form, length of bloom and other main attributes. Other climbers are also available. All plants come well-established, in two or three-litre containers.

T 01953 850407 (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm)
W thorncroftclematis.co.uk

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